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## **Hattie Meyers Junkin Papers - Writings: "Let's Go to the Elmira Soaring Meet", US Air Service, 1931-08**

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(Continued from Page 54)

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Visiting the Alamo and the old missions for which San Antonio is famous—Looking forward to the next stop, Fort Worth, with a complete day of rest—and a chance to have some laundry done—Reading about a projected round-the-world race—The excitement of the boys—Wiring (collect) to Publisher Findley and learning that N.A.A. knew nothing of it—But it was a good story—Passing Joe Meehan and his Great Lakes entry, his cigar held at a jaunty angle—His figuring mileage by the number of cigars consumed en route—Bill Lancaster's enjoyment of Suburban Gardens at New Orleans—Watching a pilot win \$40 at roulette and lose \$80 on snake eyes—Watching Carr's snake to see it didn't escape from the Sun God—The snake's popularity at each landing—The willingness of everybody to be bitten—For the cure—Bill Gould's invitation to take one of the laps with him in his Stearman—Accompanying the tour as the Pratt & Whitney service ship—Jack Story's broadcasting at each field—The welcome given Jim Smart at Memphis by his mother—Ollie Walker's attack of "appendicitis" at Houston—And being cured by Jack, "Doc" Collins—The famous Italian Pilot—Here and There—The hop to Fort Worth—Rain, fog—Being told that the tour had brought more rain to all parts of Texas than they had had in a long time—Our amazement at sight of the sun later that day—We had not seen it for a week—

Watching herds of Texas steers stare at us as we would come racing across the fields then turn tail and run after we had passed within a few feet of them—Watching Jack Neville being greeted by sisters at every stop in Texas—His home state—Watching Ed Crocker and Ralph (brother of Clarence) Young compute the scores each night—Standing in awe of Harry Slater—The Tour Treasure—And at times its most popular member—Hearing a loud wail of "Wa-c-col!" at one of the small hotels and finding Pop Cleveland dashing around the hall ala b.v.d. in search of the one bath tub—Our salt water swim at the New Orleans Athletic Club—When Smart joined the "Allah Allah" brigade by missing Gulfport, Miss., by

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several miles-And leading several others astray, incidentally-HEL-lo-  
 Spurning a jug of "coan whisky" and wishing for it the next night-  
 Learning that beer is against the law down south-Really-But that said  
 "coan" is the recognized drink-They drank it like lemonade-We drank it  
 like dynamite-That extra day in Fort Worth-Frank McKay gazing at the  
 lobby-sitters, and wondering if he had wandered into the cemetery by  
 mistake-The Bourbon de luxe presented us at the same stop-The  
 anxious vigil for Elaine-And her aunt-Ken Boedecker and his role as  
 Solomon-Not his wisdom-Old Sol was famous for other things as well-  
 One thousand of them-Ken went him one better-In spite of his partner in  
 crime, Ray Leedom-Incidentally, all the contesting ships used the spark  
 plugs that Ray represented-To be frank, A.C.'s-And that pays Ray for  
 the lifesaver in Detroit-Although it was belated-The jump to Oklahoma  
 City-In front of a powerful tailwind-  
 Admiring the Stinson ambulance ship there and wondering if it didn't  
 belong in the tour-As a novelty, not an adjunct-  
 Work is now under way in the shops of the Boeing Airplane Company of  
 Seattle on the construction of thirty F4B-3 Wasp-powered single-seater  
 fighters for the Navy. With spare parts, this order is valued at \$494,415  
 and deliveries are schedule to be completed early in 1932. The Boeing  
 F4B-3 will differ from previous Navy fighters produced by this company  
 in that its fuselage will be all-metal monocoque construction. As usual,  
 the plane is being equipped with arresting gear to permit operation from  
 aircraft carriers and will also have flotation bags. The F4B-3, while its  
 body will be metal, will have the standard fighter wings which are of  
 wood construction, fabric covered. Reaching Ponca City-The home of  
 Conoco-The chunk-wagon supper served by Colonel Miller and his  
 "101" Ranch cowboys-And girls-That evening at the club-With "Dusty"  
 as host-Listening to the pilots as their temperatures rose-Marveling at  
 their ability to start out the next morning-And deciding they must be  
 related to newspapermen-The thousands of people we shook hands  
 with and the two or three we remember-And hope to meet again-Getting  
 out of the Ponca City port-Wallowing in mud-Planes stuck, planes  
 skidding-Rae Brown and "Pop" Cleveland hopping around trying to duck  
 the ships-Props buzzing madly-The whole scene laugh-Except to the  
 contestants-Reaching Chanute, Kansas, for lunch-Also in the rain-  
 Watching George Dickson sail, or float, serenely down through the rain-  
 A smile on his face, as usual-The next jump to Kansas City, Mo.-Arriving  
 there as a terrific storm broke-Our welcome there, Jack Story's home  
 city-And your correspondent's home state-Meeting Mrs. Story and the  
 youngster-And wondering why Jack spends so much time flying-The  
 reception that night-No banquet, no speeches-But "don't forget 514-E. E.  
 Porterfield"-The same E.E. of Eaglet frame-That famous stop in Lincoln,  
 Nebraska-And wondering when, as and if we would make Omaha the  
 next day-Ray Collins losing nine more hairs-All-night conferences-But  
 we went to Omaha-Where your correspondent was met by a flock of  
 relatives he had not seen in twenty years-And imposed on the good  
 nature of Ed Schneider to take them for their first "hop"-And spent that  
 night on their farm in Blair-  
 Arising at four A.M. to milk the cows-The next jump to St. Joseph, Mo.,  
 where Country Club special is made-Then to Cram Field, Davenport,  
 where the town turned out to welcome home our own beloved Ralph-His  
 pride in the reception given us and his sorrow at leaving us-And ours, as  
 well-The gang's appreciation of the oasis in Davenport-A welcome relief  
 after the southern corn-Stopping at Joliet, Ill., where Water Carr ran a  
 flying school long before most pilots stepped out of high-chairs-1914 to  
 be exact-Lou Foley, flying with Long Yancey as the "Champion's"  
 representative-Charlie Bunch, the shiek of the tour-No matter what the  
 conditions, his white flannels, sport coat and shoes, always spotless-  
 Running Rae Brown a close second-Bob Dake, flying "Doc" Kincaid-The  
 jump to Kalamazoo, Michigan, an air-minded city, if there ever was one-

The next day to Akron-Examining the gigantic Akron-World's largest dirigible-Tremendous-The last leg into Detroit-Cheering thousands-Squadrons of army ships-The banquet at the new Ford Inn-With George Haldeman again with us-Bill Stout as toastmaster-A fitting climax to the year's most important commercial aeronautical event-And now thinking of the year's most important sporting aeronautical event-The National Air Races-at Cleveland-I'll be seeing you!

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