

April 22, 1993 interview with Norman Arntzen, Wally's only son, who is both an architect and a pilot.

Norman recalls his father flying to the Island to pick up people to take to the hospital.

The plane which fell thru thin ice at Jackson Harbor was a Taylor Craft. Three people aboard. Plane under water, duggid hid out. Stunts and wing prevented plane from sinking.

NA involved c 1938 regular flights bet. WI + GB.

Test pilot for Mercury Co. in Mausumuse. Test flew trainer.

NA at one point had Stinson Detroit like "Trade of Appleton".

Norman said he sometimes crammed 12 people into 5 seats.

NA's early interest in aviation - Lindbergh "great things happening" -
chance to get in on ground floor

Wally's fun. about a year. Made no money off aviation. Thirties air line ventures fall thru cracks.

Originally, NA flew off beach, then field at Wells. Then present airport at Delta City. No involvement c WI after war.

Post-WWI - GI flying school - taught unemployed vets to fly under GI bill. 9 planes used.

Barnstorming - Betty went along - on weekends - received \$1500, spent \$2000.

Contracts to drop leaflets / do aerobatics

NA taught both George Mann + Claude Cornell to fly.

Betty a licensed pilot "helped to get guys to fly" - soloed in Gypsy Moth.

Interview of Norman Arntzen - cont. 2

WA first UP pilot to deliver mail to Soos

According to Norman, Wally had "plenty of recreation" on WI.

I never went along.

[Note: Jan Thorm reported Wally had a couple of girl friends, often spent time in bar.]

WA would see new ad for plane and say "that would be a great plane to go to the island with." Could carry several people.

[Jan Thorm reported Wally thought once about running for office. Took councilmen to WI where they all got drunk. WA decided not to run.]

Paul Schultz of Ahrensmae writing history of UP aviation.

Jack Foster - local Esouaba historian.

April 22, 1993 interview with Norman Arntzen (Wally Arntzen's son)
at Escanaba, Michigan. rough notes

pick up people to take to hospital
regular flts. G.B. to W.I.

Norman - a pilot too.

UP Airways

Norman been to WI couple of times; saw Dickie Bjarnason saw an

Taylor Craft sank thru the ice in Bjarnason rescue 5 people aboard

Randolph Field in Texas

Boring^{P-} 312 fighter - WW used to
fly them up to Escanaba (in reserves)

dragged kid out - plane under water

test pilot - Mercury plane built in Menominee only 3 built

Stagger wing trainer designed for WWII

Thomas/Moose Scout

Fleet - outside looped 15th in country at Gladstone

Stinson Detroit - big wooden wheel - one big cockpit for

1925 Cherry Blossom festival two people

Wally's interest - aviation in infancy

great things happening

Lindbergh going across

Wally too young for WW I.

22 when he took flt. tra.

lft. of tra. - back in E. in 1927. Jenny first plane.

army aviation reserve.

no income off aviation / broke \$1500 on weekend / spend \$2000
airline ventures fall thru cracks.

fly off beach

field at Wells - hanger still there - north of town - concrete
pipe factory

WA - airport mgr.

no involvement in WI after war. Cesna to Marquette

after service - GI flying school - 9 planes

GI bill - lot of vets without jobs / money dwindled

Dickie Bjarnason -

plane fell thru thin ice / struts & wing prevent sinking
through ice

Barnstorming - usually weekend - give rides / mail service
trying everything they could to promote aviation
contracts to drop leaflets
do aerobatics

WA Airways - Wally the pilot - not money - Ryan plane used
Wells Airport

Paul Schultz - doing history of WA Aviation

George Mann / Claude Cornell

fabric came off fuselage while flying

copies available

"saxer he flew" - ~~not~~ pilot killed in
land pretty air plane

Wattle -
William beam to

Norman didn't learn from father Stearman 16 yr. old
solo. Betty licensed pilot - helped get guys to fly
soloed in Gypsy Moth.

Air mail to So - Stinson

"plenty of recreation" - when he was on the island

I didn't go along

speed led to single wings

monoplane racer - took engine out of another plane

Fury Command - Army Air Corps - Air Force

Paul Richter - my dad knew him

WA - "great plane to go to the island with" when he saw
new plane.

"Ashbrook B'Good Over All" - ad on plane