100 YEARS: 1926-2026

ERNEST A. LOVE FIELD

AND AVIATION AT PRESCOTT

Introduction

The purpose of this project is to present a centennial history of Arizona's oldest continuously-operated airport, with an emphasis on the first 50 years. In particular, it will identify and honor the people who built the airport and kept it operating. A secondary goal is to dispel, once and for all, a few persistent myths about the airport. To that end, hundreds of references have been included. As with all history, this will remain a work in progress.

The research for this particular undertaking began during the summer of 1990 in the old basement archives in the state capital building. Several hundred hours were spent that summer and the next, searching, page-by-page, the Prescott newspapers, most often using the last of the state library's manual, hand-crank microfilm readers. It was tedious and headache-inducing, but in the days before internet / OCR technology, that's how it was done. Today, for several reasons, searching the Prescott papers can be problematic compared with other Arizona newspapers. My binders full of microfilm photocopies made those many years ago have continued to be useful.

There are four primary parts to this presentation, along with several monographs and individual biographical profiles. Those items in the menu that are highlighted and underlined in blue are currently available in PDF format. Those not available today will be added in the coming months.

Project Notes

WEBSITE

The website is meant to be viewed on a computer screen. It does not function well on a mobile device and for that I apologize. The goal was to create a simple, reasonably attractive menu for access to the individual PDFs.

STYLE

This project does have a style sheet. It tends to favor AP Style because that's what I'm most comfortable with. There are project-specific style modifications and perhaps a few inconsistencies.

QUOTED MATERIAL

Passages and excerpts within quotation marks are presented *exactly* as originally published, including spelling, grammar and punctuation. Errors are not corrected and "[*sic*]" is used very sparingly within quoted material.

BRACKETS

Brackets are used to enclose any comments, remarks or other annotations that I thought might be useful.

POINT OF VIEW

Except in this introduction, first person narrative will not be used. As an alternative, "the author" or "this writer" may appear when needed. They will be used sparingly.

"UNKNOWN" and "PROBABLY"

"Unknown," "not currently known," "hasn't been located," etc., in every case means *by me.* Likewise, words like "perhaps," "maybe," "possibly" and "most likely" are used where information exists, but there is insufficient primary-source corroboration to draw a hard conclusion.

INDEX OF REFERENCES

The Chronological Index of Newspaper and Periodical References is arranged by decade. It began in 1990 as a *headline index* of Arizona aviation references, utilizing the database program of a first generation Mac. It contained only the publication information, headline and a few keywords. As this resource grew and computers improved, the master index was transferred out of the database format. Annotations and informal notes were added, however researchers are encouraged to read the article, rather than relying on the notes.

PHOTOS

There are some remarkable images included on these pages. There are also some less remarkable images that appear because they show the airport tract and other features as they appeared in the early days. Such photos have remained scarce. In nearly every case, the photos have been embedded in the PDFs at a large enough resolution to allow significant enlargement on a viewing screen. I invite the reader to do so and enjoy the greater detail.

If you have a nice photo of the buildings, planes, activities or people at Ernest A. Love Field, I would love to see it. I would also encourage donating early airport images and memorabilia to the Sharlot Hall Museum Library and Archives. They'll take good care of them and make them available to future generations.

PROOFREADING

Due to budget cuts, the editing and proofreading staff had to be let go. Those duties have fallen to the bleary eyes of an old man. I will depend on the reader to spot errors and typos. Corrections and additions are very welcome and, hopefully, will be included in periodic revisions.

Thank you!
Dave DuPree