

Spring Issue
2008

airparkNEWS



Did You Know?

Columbus Municipal Airport is home to many different businesses and services for the community.

Over 60% of the Airport's 2000 acres are used for farming. Many different crops help to make the airport a successful financial operation.

Worth Another Visit

Even if you have been to the Bakalar Air Museum previously, you may wish to plan another visit.

The Museum has added and improved many of the displays.

Learn More About Flying

A great way to learn more about airports and flying would be to meet the local Experimental Aircraft Association; Chapter 729, which meets the first Thursday of the month at the Terminal Building.

www.bakalar.org/eea

SIGHTS AROUND A PRINT SHOP



Pentzer Printing

Pentzer Printing is one of the prominent Columbus businesses which has chosen to be based on the airport grounds. Pentzer has been in business since Sam Pentzer's great-grandfather, Orrin Pentzer, started the company in 1902, and they have been at their current airport location, 4505 Kelly St., for the last 18 years.

Sam Pentzer and his partner, Tom Vujovich, currently employ 14 full time people in their highly diversified operation. One of their products is this newsletter. Pentzer has printed the Spring and Fall airpark NEWS for two years.

Pentzer Printing describes itself as a full-service, general and commercial printer. To list and describe all of their products and services would require several pages. Some of the key offerings are: product brochures, newsletters, catalogs, operation and training manuals, booklets, special reports, and even the ubiquitous business cards. Pentzer uses some of the time-honored printing processes

and the newer technologies as well. They use offset and digital printing techniques.

Customers can supply materials to Pentzer in all of the standard formats. As you might expect in the printing business, many of the computers in their offices are Macs. However, they have the software to convert from any other format and also supply document layout, picture and text composition services, and graphic arts to complete their customers' projects.

With digital printing processes, customer files can be entered directly into digital printing machines such as the Xerox Docucolor which produces 52 finished sheets per minute. Digital printing is one of the major technology changes to Pentzer's methods over the years.

Pentzer strives to continue being relevant in a changing marketplace through current processes and technology as evidenced by their ISO Certification.

Sam Pentzer and Tom Vujovich





*John Walter holds court over the sign at Atterbury-Bakalar Air Museum.
John can be found around the museum many days
and will be glad to show you around.*



Some of the military reenactors who set up for the open house

Atterbury-Bakalar Air Museum Open House

On May 17th and 18th the Atterbury-Bakalar Air Museum celebrated its annual open house. Many visitors came for the first time to see this excellent museum collection. There were a few antique cars to see and military reenactors set up their camp on the grass in front of the museum.

This museum, which has been featured in a previous article in "airpark NEWS" has a collection of models and dioramas depicting the aircraft and aircraft operations of World War II. Several of the museum staff are WW II veterans and are willing to tell you how it really was in battle at that time.

The museum has been expanding its facilities to include a media room and, will have even more to show at their open house next year.

If you have not seen the Atterbury-Bakalar Air Museum, plan a visit in the near future. The museum hours are: Tuesday through Friday from 10:00 until 2:00 and Saturday from 10:00 until 4:00. Check out their website at www.atterburybakalarairmuseum.org. for more information and some museum highlights.

*Gary Lawless, Larry Morlock and Cleo Sparks
with their Model A Fords*



Farming at Bakalar

Today we hear a lot of talk about keeping our businesses “green” or environmentally friendly. Our Columbus Municipal airport offers a great opportunity to follow this philosophy. We take advantage of that opportunity by farming on 60% of the total acreage at our airport facility.

The farming operation at our airport is handled by Halderman Farm Management who in turn reports to the Board Of Aviation Commissioners. Dave Bonnell runs the farming operations here and is personally involved in all the facets of our crop production on 1223 of our approximately 2000 acres. (In addition to farming at Columbus Municipal, the airport also still manages the farm operations at Walesboro Airport for another 490 acres of crops.)

Dave has been running the farm operation here since 2002. He has a farming background in Bartholomew County and a degree in Business and Farm Management.

Since an airport requires good visibility, it is natural to use the ground which is not paved for runways, taxiways, and ramp areas for crop production. However, for safety, the crops must be kept 100 feet from runways to allow the tower to see planes and for pilots to see each other.

During dryer times you will see irrigation of the farm crops using the pivoting sprayers, commonly called “pivots”. We have approximately 500 acres under pivots, any one of which can supply 700 to 1200 gallons per minute as the pivot swings through its long arc. Irrigation with the pivots is set up based on an equivalent of “inches of rainfall”. Water for the pivots comes from wells on the airport property.

Cropdusting is another tool used to enhance crop production. You may have seen the bright yellow plane low in the skies over the airport. The cropdusting operation is less costly since the crops are at an airport. This means the aircraft do not have to fly far from refilling to get to the crops to be sprayed. The plane you see typically at Columbus airport is a Piper Pawnee.

The revenue from farming at Columbus Airport helps the airport to be self sufficient as the airport is not supported by tax dollars.

If you have flown over the airport during the latter part of the growing season, you have probably noticed the “slight red tint” to the ground in some areas. These are areas where tomatoes are growing and our tomato production has been excellent. Production varies on all crops from



Dave Bonnell inspects the controls for the North pivot.

season to season, however, we average approximately 37 tons of tomatoes per acre. In addition, we can produce 42 tons of soybeans per acre and 200 bushels of corn per acre.

Some acres will be planted with green beans, which yield 5.5 tons per acre and, at times, other acreage will be in wheat producing 60 bushels per acre.

All of this from the acres of green surrounding the runways and taxiways of Columbus Municipal Airport.

Dave Bonnell added; “It would be nice to have a helicopter and a helicopter license in order to inspect the crops.”



Aviation Commissioners

- Dana Herr
- John Hogan
- John Kussman
- Jim Pridgen
- Sandy Neidigh

Airport Management

Rod Blasdel, Director
Esther Sprague, Office Mgr.
Larry Stone, Maintenance Mgr.
Mark Gentry, Air Traffic Control Mgr.

Next Issue:

Meet some of the aircraft based at Columbus Municipal Airport

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