

Bainbridge Historical Society

Newsletter

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Bainbridge Township, Ohio

March 2007

Our Next Speaker Outstanding! Entertaining! Baseball - Sports



Thomas C. Eakin
Founder-President
Ohio Baseball
Hall of Fame
April 11th, 2007

Eakin received the State of Ohio's highest honor, "The Governor's Award" given only to outstanding Ohioans in 1978.

Eakin has been honored by over 300 cities in the United States with a "Thomas C. Eakin Day" proclaimed in his honor. He set an Ohio record when he became the person in the history of the state to have at least one city or village in every county proclaim a day in his honor.

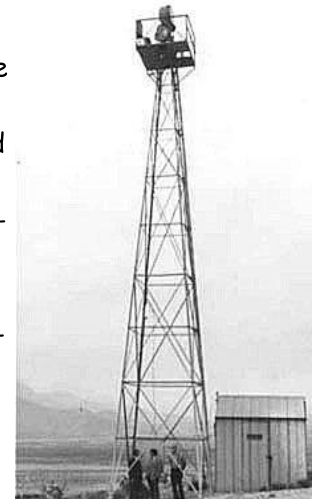
Eakin was named Volunteer of the Year in Northern Ohio by Northern Ohio Live Magazine and also received Mayor's Award for Volunteerism, City of Cleveland, 1991.

Eakin made the Guinness Book of World Records for having the longest biography in Who's Who in America, 47th Edition, 1992-1993, 142 biographical lines.

Mark your calendars and be sure to attend our next meeting. Refreshments will be served.

What's in a Name

Ever hear of Beacon Hill? Beacon Hill Drive? Where did the name come from? In the early days of flight, there were no navigation aids to help pilots find their way. Pilots flew by looking out of their cockpit window for visual landmarks or by using automobile road maps. These visual landmarks or maps were fine for daytime, but airmail operated around the clock. Back in 1919 the U. S. Army Air Service experimented with bonfires built by farmers and other public officials to mark the way for night flight. This experiment led to lighted rotating beacons in 1923. These beacons were placed across the country spaced 15 to 25 miles apart and were visible for 40 miles in clear weather.

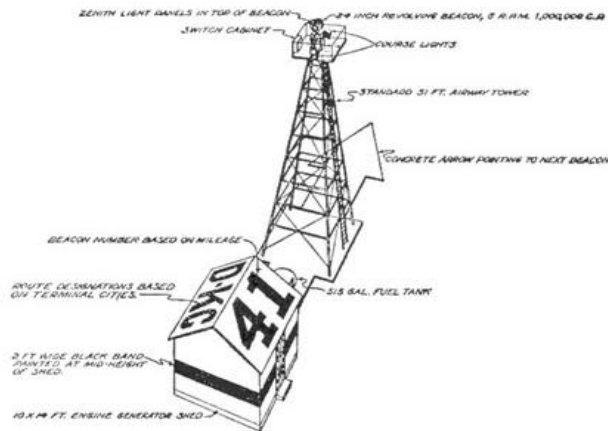


Bainbridge Township was the location of one of the beacons on the route. This was at the top of the hill just beyond the end of Beacon Hill Road, which did not exist at that time. This was on property owned by Joe Zeithaml and purchased by Dave English to become the Beacon Hill development.

By 1933 there were 1500 beacons lighting the air routes across the U.S. covering 18,000 miles. Each tower had a 500-watt revolving searchlight beaming a light parallel to the

ground to point the way. Each tower had site numbers painted on it for daytime identification.

In 1928 the Aeronautics Branch started experimenting with radio to warn pilots of weather conditions which led to radio beacons. Throughout the 30's radio technology improved and during World War II more techniques were developed. By the 50's these visual beacons were



all replaced with radio beacons. From "History of Flight by the US Centennial Flight Commission" Roger Mola

Our Spring Program Schedule

April 11th, 2007 - THOMAS C. EAKIN, well know speaker on baseball, and also a history buff. Founder and President of the Ohio baseball Hall of Fame. He has a wealth of knowledge to share with us.

May 11th, 2007 - LARRY PERK and HELEN HAVLINA together will like us to get to know Taborville better. They are known as the historians of Taborville.

June 13th, 2007- Picnic - Time and Place to be announced.

Just a Reminder There are a few out there who have not paid their dues. See Marge Cook to correct this problem.

7.00 for singles, 10.00 for family. Life Membership - 100

More Aviation Tidbits

As told by *Paul Seibert*

The story, as I remember it, went like this Cliff was a mechanic in the Army Air Corps in WWII stationed at Randolph Field T . After the war the army was selling surplus trainers out of Randolph. In 194 , Cliff, who was working at Horn s as Chief Mechanic, and couple of friends possibly Bruno Loop Lume, and Jim Horn from Cleveland went to Texas and brought back several PT 23s, one PT 2 and a BT 13. Cliff and his friends flew the PT 23s out of the strip across from the school on weekends--it was called Bainbridge Airport and it appeared on a sectional chart in about 1948. Lume owned the PT 2 . I believe Elmer Lomler Cal s brother was part of the group also. The kids who used to go there on Sundays included Herman Franks, Don Zeithaml, Lyle Staffeld and me when I could convince my folks to take me there . Jim Horn owned the BT 13 and it was him, flying against Cliffs rules, who took off over the school during school hours and caused the problem with Paul Gardner. I think the airport closed in 1949 50.

I have one picture of a PT 23 taken at Bainbridge Airport. The PT 23 s had wood wings and center sections and if left outside, the center sections would rot. I do not know what happened to them. I do remember Lume working on a PT 2 in the old Warren farm barn next to Chagrin Airport sometime in the 50 s

This field was directly across the road, RTE 30 , from the old Bainbridge Center School.

Officers 200 -7

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&
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543-3199

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Meetings of the Bainbridge Township Historical Society are held the second Wednesday of the month (September through June) at 7:30 p.m. in the Burns-Lindow Building at the corner of Route 306 and Bainbridge-Solon Road.



Town Hall Circa 1914
Now Burns Lindow Bldg

**Check out our Web Page at - <http://bainbridgemory.org/>
More Aviation History**

With what noted accident in Geauga county is the name of Colonel Charles Lindbergh connected?

On December third 1929, Air Pilot Thomas Nelson, one of the most noted aviators in the U. S., was lost in a blinding snow storm while carrying the mail from Bellefonte, Pa., to Cleveland. He was a great friend of Colonel Lindbergh and he joined in the search over Burton, Claridon and other points in Geauga county. Nelson was found by some rabbit hunters on the farm of Clarence Haskins in Bainbridge where his plane had come down and he was killed by the fall.

In 1940 **Wilbur Horn opened Horn's Flying School** at the airport and one of his first students was Donald Hein of Bainbridge who became an instructor after securing his license. Horn received a Civil Pilot Training contract and during World War II, a dozen instructors taught students bussed in from Hiram College and John Carroll University. After the war, Hein became full time manager. Horn and Hein bought one hundred thirty-one acres from Warren in 1958 and paved the runways in 1963. Horn died in 1972 and Hein continued to run the school. The flying school was the first to be approved for GI Bill training after the war and became the largest flying school in Ohio, enrolling more than one hundred students at a time. It served businessmen as well as students for many years, but as South Russell grew into a popular bedroom community, developers began seeking any vacant land and in 1979 Mrs. Horn and Hein sold the airport.

In April 1979, after more than fifty years of service, Chagrin Falls Airport closed, the end of an era in private and commercial flying.

