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BELLEVILLE CENTER AIRCRAFT ACTIVITY

MORE ILLINOIS HISTORY

Colby Tells of Progress Made at Scott Field, Near That City; Other Features Are Noted

(By Lester B. Colby)
Illinois Chamber of Commerce
Great motors whirl and as their power clutches two giant doors, each weighing 763 tons, roll back. They tower 150 feet into the air. Military airships glistening with bright aluminum are led out of the hangar, one, two, three of them; cabins, that can comfortably hold a dozen men, hang by thin lines.

Come now a group of darker "free" balloons, round rubber balls of gas with baskets dangling from cobwebs of fragile looking weave. Over at one side, gleaming in the sunlight, is a half-expanded shapeless thing that shines like silver and is slowly taking the form of a captive balloon of "sausage" type.

On the "Cat Walk"
Up on the "cat walk" in the hangar, 157 feet above a concrete floor, a spider-man makes his way swayingly on a pathway that's all but invisible. The walk is 800 feet long.

Over yonder are a group of warehouses in which are stored \$40,000,000 worth of air materials ready for the next war—if it comes—ready in a twinkling to take the sky. Two dozen airplanes stand in rows, blocks at their wheels. Motors begin to roar. This is the great central air base of the United States government. Here all of Uncle Sam's lighter-than-air pilots must train and it is called the sternest, hardest, most heart-breaking air school in the world. The picture is a flat plain of 5,000 acres, rimmed with trees—centered by Scott Field, Belleville, Illinois!

Payroll of Airmen
Long rows of low frame houses, barracks, officers' headquarters, hangars for airplanes, make up a square-cut city that covers probably a quarter of a section. They tell me that the payroll of the airmen here runs close to \$55,000 a month! That means a peace-time payroll of about \$650,000 a year!

This is Sunday and there are visitors. An air circus is in the making, parachute jumping, aerial gymnastics, hide-and-seek in the clouds, all the "stuff" of the world war—and more. The little Sperry plane, first ship ever to attach itself to a dirigible in the sky, is rolled out. It looks like a child's plaything.

Capt. Nungesser, officially credited with shooting down 43 enemy planes in the European holocaust, is a visitor to the field. He throws a parachute over his back, buckles and snaps his harness, hops in and with French accent cries, "Cohn-tack." A whir and a run of fifty feet, or sixty maybe. He seems to point his winged steed's nose almost straight up. A moment passes and he is a speck on the horizon. Gone, somewhere.

New Mooring Mast
Col. John E. Paegelow, commander of the school, sits at his flat-topped desk. He is saying:
"Our new mooring mast here will be 207 feet high. The Shenandoah, you know required a 150 foot mast. It is 682 feet long and takes, 2,500,000 cubic feet of gas. We have plans for a new ship that will take 5,000,000 cubic feet.

"I foresee in ten years or so, a ship that will need 10,000,000 cubic feet. I want one that can carry you from this Illinois city to England in from 72 to 90 hours. I want one in which you may dine at ease, enjoy your cigar, take your promenade on deck, and sleep in better than you can in a Pullman car.

"We are thinking of the future. We will shortly start to bury, out here in the ground, giant steel drums filled with non-explosive, non-burning helium gas. These buried drums will be available, if wanted, ten years from now, fifty years, a hundred or a thousand years from now—if another war comes. It will come out just as good as it went in."

A word about Col. Paegelow, grim and gentlemanly warrior of the sky, just graying a bit. He was born in Germany. He entered the United States army service as a buck private. He was commanding a regiment in the Philippines in 1917.

General Pershing called him home and said, "You are going to fly." That was all. So he flew for the first time. Col. Paegelow has commanded more balloons, in the air in actual warfare, than any English or French officer.

Romance of Illinois
There have been of late some writers, men and women of a skeptical school, who seem to love to write stories of the dull and drab, the meager and neurotic; stories of Main streets and Babbitts, of the thinness and uneventfulness of America's towns and smaller cities. They should come to Illinois!

Everywhere I go I see romance, development, business miracles. I wander Illinois and find unfolding amazing things.
Belleville today, home of 28,000 persons. Belleville, home of 140 manufacturing establishments. Belleville, whose 2,500 skilled workmen turn out \$16,000,000 in goods each year. Belleville settled by the French in 1808; marked by the German invasion of the

40's and by a second wave of Germans, coming in the 70's. Belleville with a population of 90 per cent native born today.

I see a Belleville that has turned out more than 2,000,000 stoves. They call it the nation's foremost stove city. It is a great foundry and machine center. Belleville, home of four banks with capital of \$14,000,000. Belleville, a specialist in intense farm and garden culture. Belleville, famed for its "white asparagus" consumed by epicures who pay 80 cents a pound for it, great snowy stalks as big around as a woman's wrist. Figures and facts come mostly from Ed Daley. He bristles with statistics and pride in Belleville as an airfield bristles with hair.

Great Monks Mound
Belleville stands on the high bluffs seven miles east of the Mississippi river. Below these bluffs the Trappist Monks came and settled in 1690 and built a monastery on the top of the prehistoric "Monks Mound." That is a giant pile of earth, 75 feet high, 790 feet long and 500 feet wide, a structure greater than the Great Pyramid of Egypt! It is the mightiest edifice ever built by man. Its people—lost in antiquity!

It was here that gardens smiled and vineyards grew, wheatfields and cornfields waved in the sun and somber cloaked Jesuits and monks brewed before, almost a hundred years before straggling colonists filtered over the mountains into Ohio or Kentucky. Before Vermont was settled. Before Washington was born; or Napoleon. Here stood Cahokia before there was a New Orleans or a Pittsburg or a St. Louis; a hundred and twenty years before John Kinzie lived in the first house in Chicago!

Modern Sights
Now men are making hats and shoes, trunks and bags, sashes and doors, open-heart furnace castings. Now in this human beehive boys who will rule the air are taking their feet off the ground for the first time, dropping like plummet from the sky with nothing but fragile silk to hold them;

men getting ready to hide helium gas that may be used by their descendants a dozen generations removed!

Romance and drama in our Main street? Our Illinois cities dull and commonplace? When these cities and industries marshal their output and their products in Chicago next October, at the Illinois Products Exposition, to be given by the Illinois Chamber of Commerce, at the American Exposition Palace, you will find yourself on the jury. Your verdict may then be rendered. My mind is made up. I could not be impartial.

TURKS DEPORT MORE CHRISTIAN REFUGEES

People Once Wards of America Are Driven from Homes By Ottomans

The borderlands between British Mosul and Turkey have again become the scene of widespread deportations of Christian peoples, according to information presented to the League of Nations. Early in September a group of nearly 300 Christian refugees reached a British outpost, bringing news that the Turks are deporting 8,000 Christians to various interior points.

These settlers, who are thus again thrown into refugeeism, are mainly Chaldeans and Assyrians. They had only recently emerged from several years as refugees along the Tigris and Euphrates, where they were largely supported by American charity through the Near East Relief, which also co-operated with the British government in restoring them to their old homes around Urnia.

This large group of refugees were the remnant of a once prosperous race, which was almost wiped out as a result of their espousal of the Allied cause during the World War. According to American observers, they are people of a high type, excellent warriors and in peace time loyal and reliable agriculturalists.

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Character of Youth Depends on Community

The environment of play-time and school days is the dominant factor in forming the character of youth.

Dr. Wm. A. McKeever, one of the foremost sociologists in America, is authority for the above. In his opinion the essential difference between the so-called good and bad boy is the environment in which that boy received his training.

Educational, social, religious and civic activities to interest you—schools, churches, libraries, parks, athletic fields, golf courses and community recreation, are more and more a part of suburban life.

So it devolves upon parents to select a home in a place where they can confidently approve the social forces with which their children will be in contact.

The essential conveniences of modern living—gas and electric services—which you now enjoy are available to you because utility companies keep pace with progress.

The essential services rendered by this Company insure the conveniences of modern living

Being a citizen of every community it serves, this Company is vitally interested in constructive development and orderly growth. Its service facilities are kept always ahead of the demands of its ever increasing number of customers.

To serve the new home-making development west of Highland Park and Lake Forest, which centers around Libertyville and Mundelein in Lake County's Countryside.

This Company carefully watches the trend of population and accordingly prepared itself sometime ago

Such desirable development is important to this Company because its prosperity and that of the communities it serves are inter-dependent.

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