

Scribblings

...from the Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library



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March - April, 2001
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ON THE TRAIL OF THE GRAY GOOSE - Part 2

The Airline That Never Flew

By: Davia Capra and Sergio Lugo, RMPL Volunteers
Marilyn Chang, Librarian, Denver Public Library

Library user (David Capra) to reference librarian (Marilyn Chang): "Have you ever heard of the Gray Goose Airline, because I haven't had any luck in identifying an envelope with their corner card logo in the past 25 years."

Marilyn Chang: "Funny you should ask that, I had a request for some information a couple of weeks ago for the Gray Goose Airline."

David Capra: "Well, in the envelope I happen to have a stock certificate for the Airline, which could be of help in gathering information on the airline."

Continued from the January - February Issue of "Scribblings"...

In 1949, a secretary working for Mr. Caldwell in 1930 (see Figure 7) recalled that the Gray Goose company moved from Mr. Caldwell's home to 810 14th Street and to an entire floor at 1617 California Street. Ten salesmen were selling stock for the company at the time. It seems that Mr. Caldwell moved to New Jersey, shortly after the photos in Figures 3 and 4 were taken and to Maryland in the late 1930's, where he continued his eccentric aviation pursuits (see Figure 8).

He, however, mysteriously disappeared from his Glen Burnie, Maryland home and workshop in 1940. Investigators found at his workshop the dilapidated remains of two aircraft, one of which was a "flying saucer", pictured in Figure 9 that Mr. Caldwell had constructed in 1940.

The August 21 edition of the Denver Post provided an unsurpassed description of the two aircraft. It wrote: "One of the strange aircraft had a conventional small fuselage like a conventional plane, with a rotating disk and propellers above it (see Figure 10). The other was built like a big-round cheese box. It had propellers above and below and seated four."

The secretary's article goes on to state that in 1930 Mr. Caldwell believed that the secret of flight could be solved by imitating the motion of a bird's wing - hence the design of the "Gray Goose". The article also reads that the "plane collapsed around the pilot as it got ready to take off as the motorcycle engine which powered the wings sprang to life! Undaunted, Mr. Caldwell built another model (apparently the "Gray Goose" of figures 3 and 4 shown in part one of this article). Skeptics abounded back then, as much as today.

A mechanic (H.B. Rudolph) reported that he was

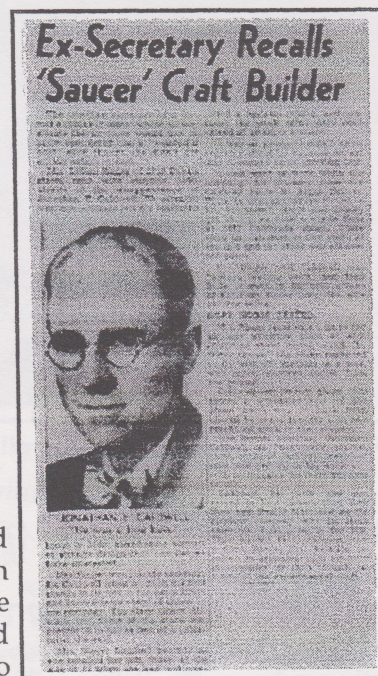


Figure 7:

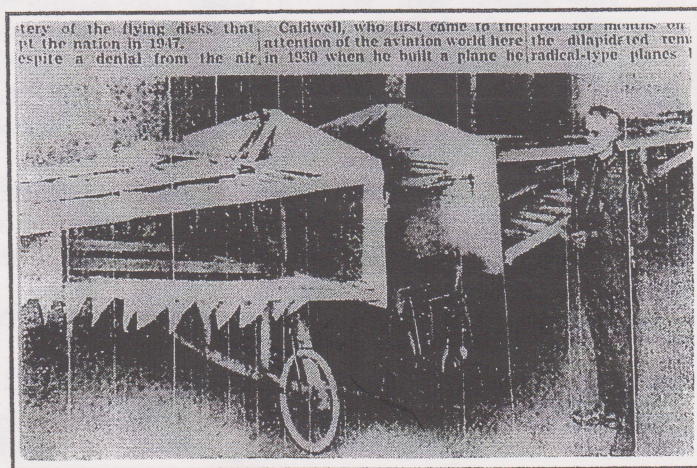


Figure 8: Caldwell and one of his aircraft.

fired by Mr. Caldwell, when he (Rudolph) told him (Caldwell) that the plane would never fly. Scheduled to fly on a Sunday for the benefit of the company's investors, strangely enough Mr. Caldwell left Denver before the scheduled test of *the Gray Goose*. But what's a promoter turned inventor to do in his new digs. Why - start up another stock venture to promote fanciful planes and, coincidentally, one's own pocketbook. Which is exactly what Mr. Caldwell was doing in New Jersey in Teterboro, New Jersey and Orangeburg, New York in the mid 30's until enjoined from selling stocks by both States. At the time of his disappearance from Glen Burnie in 1940, Mr. Caldwell was under investigation by the State of

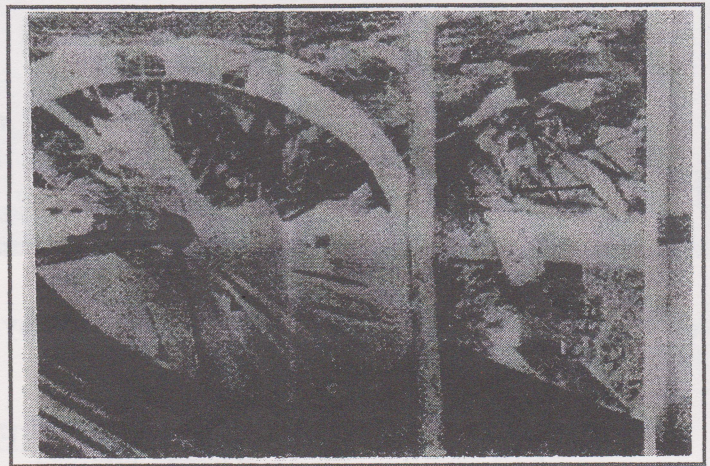


Figure 9: Flying "Saucer."

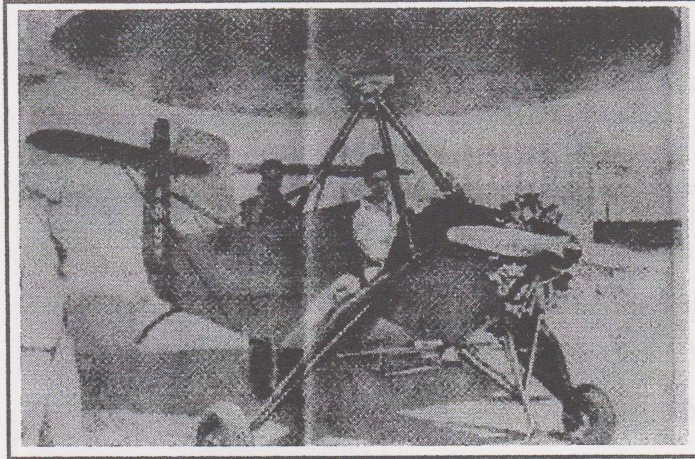


Figure 10: Another of Caldwell's strange aircraft.

Maryland - but the newspaper article doesn't specify the reasons for the investigation - could it have had something to do with stock promotions for another airline.

Following his disappearance from Glen Burnie, Jonathan Caldwell apparently continued to design eccentric aeronautical machines - but this time in Las Vegas, Nevada as reported by the Denver Post on August 25, 1949. And that, at nearly the age of 80, is where the story ends - insofar as Jonathan Caldwell is concerned, as well as a library user and a reference librarian - to whom the question about the Gray Goose Airways was fully satisfied.

News From the RMPL...

SECOND SATURDAY AT THE RMPL

Interest in the Second Saturday programs continues to grow. We are pleased that our members and their guests are finding the programs useful. To get out for a program at 9:00 AM on a Saturday morning does take some effort and it appears that some of our members are becoming regulars. We try to vary the programs so that there is a wide range of coverage and try to arrange for programs from which we all can learn. Give us a try on one the Second Saturdays and bring along a guest who might be interested. The coffee pot is always on and the donut fairy seems to show up on a regular basis for these meetings.

For the Second Saturday program on March 10, George Snyder will give the program - "Another Look at the Confederacy" - showing us a lot of new material. His previous programs have been most interesting.

The April 14th Second Saturday program will be given by Steve Schweighofer on the subject of "Domestic Express Mail". This is a highly specialized subject and Steve knows it well.

NEW RMPL BOARD MEMBER

At the January 4th, 2001 RMPL Board Meeting one of the Action Items resulted in the appointment of Maury Pautz to become a member of the Board of Directors. We welcome Maury and know that he will take an active part in the operation of the RMPL.

ADULT BEGINNING STAMP CLASS SCHEDULED

The RMPL will start a class for adults on Beginning Stamp Collecting on Saturday afternoon, April 21st - 1:30-4:00 PM, and continuing on for three more Saturday afternoons - April 28th, May 5th, and May 12th. These instructional sessions will be held at the library and it will be important to attend on all four dates to receive the most benefit. The class size will be limited to 20 and those interested can register by calling 303-759-9921. These sessions are **absolutely FREE**. Come and join us!

AUCTION LOTS NEEDED FOR SILENT AUCTION

As has become the custom, the RMPL will hold a

silent auction at ROMPEX. We would appreciate donations of lots for the auction. Cover lots of all kinds would be greatly appreciated especially higher value items. Bring donations to the RMPL or mail to the RMPL and signify that these donations are for the Silent Auction. This auction plays a most important part in our financial year. We would like to receive these donations as soon as possible so that we can get them into the auction catalog.

DONATIONS ARE HEAVY

As we reached the end of the calendar year donations to the RMPL increased. Many of our donors wanted to get their donation included in the 2000 tax year and realized that they must be received at the RMPL before December 31st. The RMPL is a 501 (c)(3) public charity and donations to the library may be taken as deductions on your income tax.

As we have said before, donations are key to the continued growth of the RMPL and we appreciate each and every one, no matter how large or small. We accept all types of philatelic material and try to find a use for all of it. If you find that you cannot bring the items you want to donate to the library yourself, call and we will see if we can make arrangements to pick up the items in the local area. To make these special arrangements call the library at 303-759-9921 during our normal business hours.

Included among our generous donors over the past several months are : Glenn Mallory, Larry Parks of SESCAL, Andrew Murin, Joe Crosby, Barbara Mueller, Ed Schenck, Brian Holthouse, Forrest Carhart, Art Weaver, Margo Pokempner, Bob Brown, Carl Anderson, Min Ray, Maury Pautz, Diana Gonring, Eddie Hackstaff, George Killian, George Cosentini, Bob Ainsworth, Tim Bartsche, Frederick Mayer, Roger Cichorz, Aurora Stamp Club, Jack Willard, Don Beuthel, Jim Peterson, Michael Maselli, Brian Kelly, Doug Crowe, Steve Blecher, Larry Piekenbrock, Helen Daniels, Jack Harlan, Colorado Postal History Society, Michael C. O'Reilly, Shirley Pope, Steve Wineteer, Bill Lansky, Gary Gibson, Linda & David Roitman, Stuart Silverberg, Jim Lays, Jim Davenport, Jim Johnson, Mort Turner, Harry Methner, Dr. Roger Schnell, Art Weaver, Jack Van Ens, Bob Wolfe, Tom Van Eyck, Colin Spong, Stephen Pacetti, Frank Bocovich, Jean Casson, Joe Neri, Dave Capra, Peter Bergh, Jim Moorman, Ron Mitchell, Robert DeBus, Alex Ioanides, Sherri Jennings, Dalene Thomas, Arapahoe Stamp Club, Denver Germany Stamp Club, Marshall Kean, and the Scandinavian Collector's Club. I hope that we haven't missed anyone. Thank you!

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Our membership is holding pretty steady. Several of the members who joined "to help us out" in the beginning have chosen not to renew so we don't show as much growth as we would like but

membership is increasing slowly.

Some of you will be receiving a first, second or final renewal notice with this issue of the Scribblings and those of you who have renewed your membership recently should be receiving a new Membership Card. After the third (final) notice members are moved to the inactive list and no longer will receive the Scribblings and other membership privileges.

As you renew, remember that any amount over the basic \$15 membership rate is considered a donation and may be used as a deduction on your income tax. We urge that you respond promptly and generously.

A special effort is being made during the first half of 2001 to contact philatelists who are not members of the RMPL to let them know about the library and the benefits. If you know of a local philatelist who is not an RMPL member please see that we receive the name and address and we will try to contact them. We hope to increase the membership by 10% with your help!

During the past several months the following persons have become members of the RMPL:

Rick Authenrieth	Sam Drury
Rod Haenii	Owen Robb
	Keith Wagner

OUR MICROFILM COLLECTION IS GROWING

*By Bob Brown, RMPL Volunteer
Director of Micrographics*

Recently added to our microfilm collection at the library are two rolls of microfilm from the National Archives in Washington, DC containing images of the U.S. Geological Survey Topographic Maps for the state of Nebraska. These maps were issued between 1884 and 1972.

These maps should be of interest to postal historians for locating some obscure town or rail siding that may or may not have had a post office. They also show the railroad lines that connected the towns and settlements. In some cases the railroads no longer exist or they have been absorbed into larger roads through merger, acquisition, etc.

Our collection also has six rolls of microfilm containing images of the USGS Topographic Maps for the state of Colorado. These maps are of the same time frame as the ones for Nebraska, 1884 to 1972.

If you would like to see the library obtain the same information for a particular state, please contact Bob Brown, our self-appointed Director of the Micrographics Division of the RMPL. Bob is on duty at the library on Wednesday mornings from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM.

...What's Happening at the RMPL...

"Come and enjoy the activities"

March, 2001

Mondays: March 5, 12, 19, 26 Open 10-4
Tuesdays: March 6, 13, 20, 27 Open 10-4
Wednesdays: March 7, 14, 21, 28 Open 10-4
Thursdays: March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 Open 2-8
Fridays: March 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 Open 10-4
Saturdays: March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 Open 10-4
March 3 - Meeting - 10:00 AM
Scandinavian Collectors Club
March 7 - Aurora Stamp Club
6:30 Trading 7:30 Meeting and Program
March 8 - Meeting - 7:30 PM
Topical Philatelists In Colorado
March 10 - Second Saturday at the RMPL
9:00 AM - Program by George Snyder
"Another Look at the Confederacy"
March 10 - Meeting - 10:00 AM
Mexico/Latin America Philatelic Group
March 10 - Meeting - 2:00 PM
Universal Ship Cancellation Society
USS Colorado Chapter
March 14 - Meeting - 7:00 PM
Denver Germany Stamp Club
March 17 - Meeting - 1:00 PM
RMPL Kids Stamp Club
March 24 - 10:00 AM
ROMPEX/ RMPL Exhibiting Workshop
March 24 - Meeting - 2:00 PM
China Stamp Society
March 27 - 7:30 PM - ROMPEX Committee

April 2001

Mondays: April 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 Open 10-4
Tuesdays: April 3, 10, 17, 24 Open 10-4
Wednesdays: April 4, 11, 18, 25 Open 10-4
Thursdays: April 5, 12, 19, 26 Open 2-8
Fridays: April 6, 13, 20, 27 Open 10-4
Saturdays: April 7, 14, 21, 28 Open 10-4
April 4 - Aurora Stamp Club
6:30 Trading 7:30 Meeting and Program
April 7 - Meeting - 10:00 AM
Scandinavian Collectors Club
April 11 - Meeting - 7:00 PM
Denver Germany Stamp Club
April 12 - Meeting - 7:30 PM
Topical Philatelists In Colorado
April 14 - 2nd Saturday at the RMPL
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Mexico/Latin America Philatelic Group
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Rocky Mountain Aerophilatelists
April 14 - Meeting - 2:00 PM
Universal Ship Cancellation Society
USS Colorado Chapter
April 21 - Meeting - 1:00 PM
RMPL Kids Stamp Club
April 24 - 7:30 PM - ROMPEX Committee
April 28 - 10:00 AM
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April 28 - Meeting 2:00 PM
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Scribblings is published bi-monthly by the Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library, 2038 So. Pontiac Way, Denver, CO 80224.

Donald G. Beuthel, Editor

The Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library is a chartered Colorado non-profit corporation. Membership subscriptions over that for the annual regular membership, and donations of appropriate philatelic materials, are deductible for U.S. income tax purposes. The RMPL is an Internal Revenue Service designated 501 (c)(3) charitable organization.

RMPL Board of Directors

President: Donald G. Beuthel Vice-President: Jim Kilbane Secretary: William S. Dunn Treasurer: Robert Blatherwick
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