

# PIONEER OF AIR PRAISES TOUR

Orville Wright Meets Planes at  
Dayton; Cincinnati Is  
Today's Goal.

(By the Associated Press)

COLUMBUS, O., July 5.—All 13 of the airplanes participating in the national air tour arrived at Norton Field, Columbus, shortly before noon today. The last plane came to a stop at 11:25 a. m.

By JAMES V. PIERSON.

(Staff Correspondent The Detroit News)

DAYTON, July 5.—Orville Wright, the man who was first to fly an airplane, was among the huge crowd which swarmed over McCook Field to greet the National Air Tour on its arrival here yesterday from Kalamazoo on the tenth leg of the third annual reliability contest for the Edsel Ford Trophy. All of the planes arrived with a perfect score for the flight here and were in good condition for today's flights scheduled to take them to Columbus and Cincinnati.

Mr. Wright characterized the tour as one of the best means of demonstrating the progress in American aircraft construction and said that each year the tour showed a marked advance over preceding years. He showed special interest in the metal planes and said that they represented the greatest advance in aircraft manufacturing because of their adaptability to modern production methods.

The four planes covered 407 miles yesterday, starting from the municipal airport in Cleveland at 9 a. m. All had arrived here at 4:15 p. m. after a three-hour stop for lunch and fuel at the Kalamazoo Municipal Airport.

## IN SECOND PLACE.

Harvey C. Mummert, piloting the Mercury, had nosed into second place by a scant margin when the total score was calculated here by

Lieut. R. G. Breene, A. C., and E. P. Crocker, of Detroit, scorers. Eddie Stinson, piloting the Stinson monoplane, still leads the field by a large margin.

On the flight from Cleveland to Kalamazoo, the Stinson Detroit, piloted by Leonard S. Flo, was forced to land near Devils Lake, Mich., but was able to proceed after a brief delay and finished within its allotted time. Flo had exhausted one gas tank and in switching to an auxiliary tank he did not turn the valve quite far enough to tap the other tank. He was forced to land before the error was discovered. Only a few minutes before that he had been flying less than 50 feet above Lake Erie, where the course lay for the first 90 miles out of Cleveland.

More than 30,000 persons saw the tour fleet and its accompanying planes here and at Kalamazoo. Kalamazoo is the proud possessor of the first municipal airport in Michigan, established two years ago with an initial investment of more than \$100,000. It is the finest natural airport in the United States and with the completion of an ambitious program of expansion will be in a class with Buffalo and Cleveland, cities more than 10 times its size.

## CITY MAY PURCHASE.

McCook Field is the former center of the Army's air corps engineering developments, but now is being abandoned in favor of the New Wright Field, northeast of Dayton.

McCook is being considered as the site for a municipal airport and probably will be purchased by the city of Dayton for this purpose.

The New Wright Field is strictly a military base, and when completed will constitute one of the largest and most up-to-date experimental stations in the world.

The Dayton Chamber of Commerce and the Dayton Chapter of the National Aeronautic Association tendered the 60 passengers and four pilots a banquet here last night at which Charles F. Kettering, president of General Motors Research Corporation, starter of the tour at Detroit, acted as toastmaster. Brig.-Gen. William E. Gillmore, chief of the Army Air Corps materials division, and Ray Cooper, general manager of the tour, were the principal speakers.

"The National Air Tour brings great good to the Army and Navy as well as to commercial aviation," said Gen. Gillmore, "because it tests new flying equipment and stimulates public interest in seeing the service units properly equipped and in the establishment of airports."

## IMPORTANT TO DEFENSE.

"Airports are equally as important to national defense as they are to commercial aviation, and the sooner the country has good landing and servicing facilities for planes the sooner it will have an adequate defense."

Mr. Cooper thanked Dayton for its generous reception of the tour and said that its success thus far had gone beyond all expectations. The outstanding achievement of the tour, he said, is the demonstration of ability to keep a rigid schedule under difficult conditions. The few breaks in the schedule, he said, were caused by conditions that would have given greater difficulty to any other vehicle of transportation.

Today's flights are two of the shorter hops of the 16-day journey which is taking the planes to 24 cities. Columbus was to be a mid-day stop, and Cincinnati an overnight stop. The tour heads north tomorrow and will stop overnight at Louisville, Ky. Dallas, Tex., will be the most southerly and westerly point on the flight and will be reached Friday. The fleet returns to Detroit July 12.