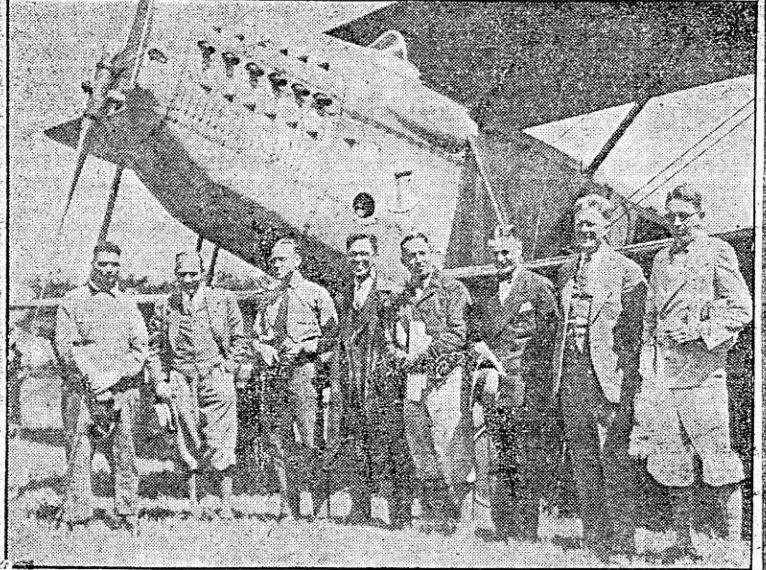


Kalamazoo Laying Elaborate Plans for Reception of Airplane Tourists Aug. 7

7-18-26



This is the big Douglas army transport and the eight passengers who are aboard during the pathfinding tour for the second annual Commercial Airplane Reliability Tour, as they appeared immediately after landing at the Municipal Airport in Kalamazoo last week. From left to right they are: Lieut. L. C. Elliott, pilot; Harold Wymer, Detroit News; Sergt. William Ross, mechanician; J. Peterson Adams, Paige Motor Car Company; Capt. Ray Collins, traveling referee of the tour; H. G. McCarrroll, tour manager; Charles E. Planck, Detroit Free Press; and Frank E. Bogart, Detroit Times.

Manufacturers Will Be Asked to Close Plants for Day to Allow Employees to View Ships.

At no point along the route of the 2,600-mile course of the second annual Commercial Airplane Reliability Tour are preparations further advanced for the reception of the 40 planes that will compete in the test than at Kalamazoo. This information is vouchsafed by Captain Ray Collins, traveling referee, who is aboard the pathfinder plane that is visiting all cities on the itinerary.

The tour will start from the Ford airport at Detroit at 9:00 on the morning of Saturday, Aug. 7, and will finish at the same point two weeks later. Fifteen cities will be visited, and in each of these cities, except Kalamazoo, the contestants will make an overnight stop. Kalamazoo is the first stop on the itinerary. The planes are

scheduled to reach the Municipal Airport in this city at 10:00. They will remain at the field for three hours, and an effort is being made by the local committeemen to prolong this stay for an hour or two.

SUGGEST FULL HOLIDAY.

Falling in this plan the committee will ask the manufacturers of Kalamazoo to make the Saturday a full holiday, in order that the greatest number of people possible may have an opportunity to inspect the planes, which will represent the finest and most reliable ships now being built, and which will give the people all along the route a glimpse of the remarkable advances that have been made in aviation and air craft during the last few years.

"Few people recognize the full extent of air transportation even in its limited application of today," said Claude S. Carney, vice-president of the Kalamazoo Airport Association. "Before we realize it, the airplane is going to become a real factor in the commerce of the world."

Mr. Carney pointed to the fact that last year there were but 17 ships entered in the Ford Reliability Tour. This year there are 40, and the contest is to be the biggest and the most important event thus far in the history of aviation. The performance of the 40 competing ships will be watched from all quarters of the globe, and the contest will establish a new milestone in the aerial era.

TO AFFORD INSPECTION.

When the ships land at the Municipal Airport, they will be lined up for inspection. People will be allowed to go up to the planes and examine them. Every modern type will be represented. And while the ships are being viewed, the pilots will be served with luncheon.

Arrangements are being made with the Aviation Inn, directly opposite the airport, to serve a special luncheon for the aerial party, which will number approximately 50, and at this luncheon a number of special prizes to be hung up by Kalamazoo interests will be

awarded. These prizes will go to the pilots of the ships showing the best performance on the basis of the time and fuel economy factors in their significance. The tour is being conducted for the \$7,000 Ford trophy, and in addition there is a \$10,000 prize fund, \$1,000 of which was contributed by the Kalamazoo Airport Association.

7-18-1926

PLANES WORTH \$1,500,000 TO ARRIVE AUG. 7

25,000 Persons Expected to Greet Reliability Tour Fliers.

Seattle 8-15-26

VALUE PRIZES AT \$27,000.

Kalamazoo: First Stop on 2,400-Mile Itinerary; Governor and Mayors Invited to Attend.

Special committees from the Kalamazoo Airport Association will devote all this week to preparations for the reception of the 38 planes that will arrive here next Saturday morning in the 2,400-mile reliability test. The ships are due to reach the Kalamazoo Airport at 10:00 for their final stop on the trip out at the Ford Airport at Dearborn at 9:00. Kalamazoo is one of 12 cities on the official itinerary, and the event is the first test made in the history of its kind in the history of aviation. It is the second annual Commercial Airplane Reliability Tour for the \$7,000 Ford trophy. In addition there will be \$20,000 in cash prizes.

The tour has attracted 21 of the country's leading manufacturers who will bring the finest and best craft of the day entered in the competition. About 25 of the 38 planes entered qualify under the general commercial category which have been drafted to admit only the highest types of commercial ships, capable of carrying 50 or more passengers. These are the ships that will be qualified to compete for the trophy and the cash prizes. The remaining craft will compete only for the cash prizes.

SHIPS WORTH \$1,500,000. The ships entered, among which is included the new Ford three engine plane, with a load capacity of 5,000 pounds, represent an actual investment of \$1,500,000, and it will be the greatest fleet made in an aircraft ever assembled. Visitors at the Municipal Airport will have ample opportunity to inspect the ships at close range. They will remain at the field from the

time of their arrival until 10:00 in the afternoon, and it arranged that the airplane manufacturers can be made. The second leg of the tour will be delayed until 1927.

It will give everyone at the field an opportunity to examine the ships to watch the landing and the take-off. Invitations have been extended to Governor Alex C. Mack, Mayor DeWitt C. Davis and Smith of Chicago and Detroit, respectively, to be in Kalamazoo on the occasion. Under the arrangement that was being made, Mayor Smith would fly from Detroit to Kalamazoo with the competing planes, and Mayor DeWitt would fly from Chicago to Kalamazoo to meet the aviators and return with the tour fleet when it takes the air for Chicago.

It is expected that 25,000 or more people will be at the Municipal Airport to witness the completion of the airplane and arrangements are under way to bring to the city 12 army airplanes to assist in the welcoming ceremonies, and to entertain the crowds with exhibition flying after the tour ships have left.

No charge will be made for witnessing the landing and leaving of the airplanes entered in the contest. The field will be open to the general public. Arrangements have been made, however, for parking cars in the fields opposite the airport, and a charge of 50 cents will be made for each car parked. The money derived from this source will be used to help the expenses incident to bringing the tour to Kalamazoo; as will the \$1,000 that will be raised through the sale of 100 box seats.

INVITE 300 TO BOXES.

Mrs. Felix Eisenbacher and Mrs. Elizabeth Curtains were hostesses at the boxes. They have sent out approximately 300 letters to Kalamazoo people asking them to support the proposition through the purchase of a box seat. Each box seat for \$10, and will accommodate eight persons. Holders of boxes are entitled to parking in the fields opposite the airport.

For the thousands who are expected to crowd the field through out the morning and early afternoon, no charge will be made, other than that imposed for parking space in the fields opposite the airport. Use of the fields has been donated to the aviation by the farmers owning them, and there will be convenient parking space for thousands of cars. No roads closed during the day. Parking cannot be permitted on the landing field because of the large crowds of people that are expected to be gathered there.

When the planes are 10 minutes apart, starting at 10:00, they will be left in charge of 40 courtesy checkers who will permit the people to get close to the planes. As soon as the pilot has made up their reports on the first leg of their long flight, they will be taken to the association at a luncheon that will be served at the field.

8-1-1926