

AVIATION HISTORY MEMORABILIA

At 12:00 noon on April 21, 1927, Miss Pittsburgh, a 1927 WACO-9 aircraft took off from Bettis Airport with the first load of airmail bound for Cleveland, Ohio. This inaugurated airmail service between Pittsburgh and Cleveland. Miss Pittsburgh was one of three WACO-9's owned and operated by Clifford Ball to fulfill the terms of contract airmail No. 11 made possible through the efforts of local Congressman Clyde Kelly. The second WACO-9, Miss McKeesport, has been restored and it is on display at the Ohio History of Flight Museum in Columbus, Ohio. The third of the trio, Miss Youngstown, has been destroyed. The involvement of the WACO-9's in the airmail delivery service touched off the beginning of an era in pioneer aviation that made Western Pennsylvania a spawning ground for the aviation industry.

Within two years CAM 11 became one of the nation's most prosperous and successful routes, with an enviable record of completed flights.



1927 Waco 9

Open Biplane

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Cliff Ball Wing

Pittsburgh, PA
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