

MARSHFIELD MUNICIPAL AIRPORT
ROY SHWERY FIELD

Marshfield Historic Brochure



Marshfield Aviation Historical Time Line

1912 Jimmie Ward lands Curtiss Pusher at Marshfield Fair Grounds becoming first Aircraft in Marshfield.

1919 First Flying field is located one mile west of City on Bakerville Street (14th Street).

1922 Max Berghammer established a field a short distance from the first one.

1924 Marshfield has it's first recorded flying field. Max Berghammer and the Miner-Pail Auto Company incurred the cost. The location was one half mile north of St. Joseph's Hospital.

1925 - 1927 Sky High Airways ran an airport in leased land south and east of Highways 10 and 13.

1928 The Airport moved to Richfield Road, south west of the fair grounds. Marshfield Aerial Service was owned by Berghammer and Herman Dickoff.

1944 - 1945 The City of Marshfield purchased the land where the airport is presently located and created the first official City Owned Airport. (See map of Airport inside of this brochure.)



Unidentified early aeroplane in Marshfield, Wisconsin.
(Photo from Don Schnitzler Collection)

1930 Roy Shwery and Dennis Getling bought Marshfield Flying Service and changed the name to Marshfield Airways.

1933-1934 City of Marshfield bought 16.5 acres of land and constructed a 2,800-foot hard surfaced runway to the northwest.

1960 The northwest runway was extended to 3,600 feet and a new southwest 3,600 runway was added, which brought about service from North Central Airlines until 1964.

1964 One of the first commuter airlines, Midstate Air Commuter, was started here by Roy and Lois Shwery on February 17, 1964.

1974 Figi's, Inc. buy a Twin Beech aircraft and build a hangar.

1977 New airport terminal constructed for increase of passengers and needed office space for Midstate.

1981 Shwerys sell airline and Midstate moved to Central Wisconsin Airport in Mosinee. American Central Airlines tried to fill the void but Paper City Aviation took over in 1984 and lasted until 1986.

1986 Harold "Duffy" and Alice Gaier were secured as managers. Both served as fixed base operators until 1991 when they sold Aviation Services to Lynn Eberl. The Gaiers still act as airport managers and sell airplanes.

1997 The current fixed base operation, Aviation Services, Inc., offers a complete range of services including flight instruction, fuel, maintenance services and aircraft rental. Also provided is charter services.

(Excerpted from the Marshfield History Project, Vol. 1, pp. 180-181, "Marshfield Airport" story written by Dan Mauer.)

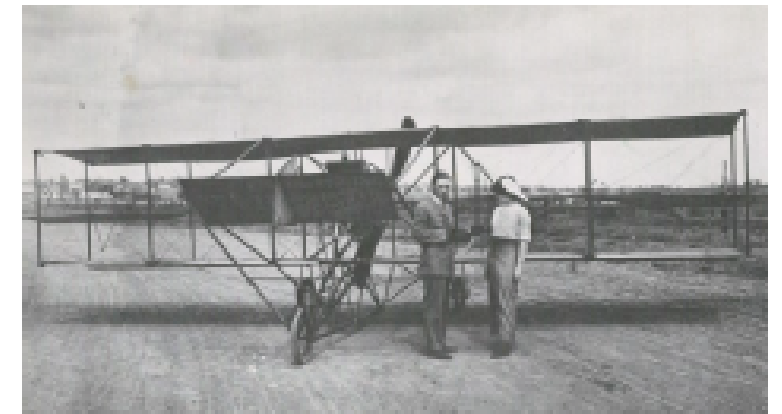
"Five Successful Flights Are Sum Total of Ward Engagement in Marshfield"

Jimmie Ward has come and gone, and Marshfield has had its first introduction to the species of the inanimate kingdom known as the biplane.

The introduction was dramatic though not exactly spectacular and everyone seems pleased with the four flights made by the youthful aviator and also pleased that he had no accidents whatever.

On Wednesday afternoon, the first day of the fair, Ward made an ascent shortly after four o'clock but there was something wrong with the gasoline mixture and he descended on the Richfield road, returning to the grounds a short time later. Then at six o'clock when the town was still full of visitors, Ward went up again, and circled the city four or five times, traveling as far west as Ebbe, north almost to McMillan, east to Hewitt and south to

the Klondike. Thousands of people watched his progress, attracted by the humming of the eight-cylinder motor. Ward stated after that his instruments showed he had reached a height of 4,000 feet in his second flight.



2012 marked the 100th year of aviation in Marshfield, WI. It all began with earlier aviator Jimmie Ward and the Curtiss Pusher "Shooting Star" at the Marshfield Fairgrounds in August 20-23, 1912. Pictured with Mr. Ward above is an unknown woman whom we believe won an airplane ride that day at the fair.

The longest flight was made Thursday. Owing to wind and a cloudy sky, Ward delayed his ascent that day until nearly six o'clock. Some words were exchanged between his manager Edward Brown, and some of the authorities on the grounds, but Ward refused to budge until he believed it to be safe. This stand approved by all those who remember that aviators have been killed by making risky flights at the insistent demands of fair crowds. When he finally did make the flight he stayed in the air three-quarters of an hour, making the same circuit as on the preceding evening and flying directly over the grandstand several times.

On Friday afternoon the weather was ideal for aviation, and he made two twenty minute trips, mostly in the immediate vicinity of the grounds. Several times he crossed directly over the grandstand, no more than fifty feet from the roof.

The machine is all he claimed it to be, and those who witnessed his remarkable performance Thursday will agree with him that it is an excellent wind-bucker.

To many people the most interesting feature of Ward's work with an aeroplane is the easy manner in which he descends to the ground. Little by little on his successive circles he drops to a lower elevation, until finally he approaches the ground, against the wind, at a height of about 100 feet. Then the motor is slowed down until finally it is shut off as the biplane glides toward the ground and lands "right side up" on its own light wheels. Ward was cheered repeatedly by the crowd for the expert manner in which he handled his "air-boat."
(From *The Marshfield News*, August 29, 1912, pg. 1)

Wisconsin Aviation Hall of Fame

Individually the honored inductees of the Wisconsin Hall of Fame (WAHF) have accomplished much. Collectively they have contributed greatly to all of aviation. Every user of today's aviation industry are beneficiaries of the knowledge, perseverance, and sacrifices of those who have gone before us.

Included in the Wisconsin Aviation Hall of Fame are two of Marshfield's own, Roy P. Shwery and Harold J. "Duffy" Gaier.

Hall of Fame Inductee Roy P. Shwery

Born: 07/19/1923
Died: 10/26/2010
Inducted: 10/24/1992



Roy P. Shwery has been deeply involved in aviation since he soloed in Janesville, Wisconsin in 1939; he was 16 years old. After he obtained his private pilot rating his mother was his first passenger. He graduated from high school in 1942 and immediately started instructing for Howard Morey in Madison and the Civil Pilot Training Program efforts.

During World War II Shwery flew medium and heavy bombers including the Boeing B-17 and B-29 until his discharge in 1946. Instrument pilots will appreciate that Roy took his instrument flight check in the B-17.

In 1950 he received his Airline Transport Rating (ATP) and had, at that time, acquired all the fixed wing ratings available. He has also earned an A & P mechanic's certificate and accumulated about 28,000 hours of flight time.

Returning to Wisconsin he began flight instructing in Marshfield. After a brief period he purchased a Navion aircraft which he used for charter. In 1948 he purchased the FBO in Marshfield where he worked. He actively developed the business to include all facets - sales, maintenance, fuel, instruction and charter.

In 1953 American Airlines hired Shwery as a pilot. During the process of selling the FBO, a local company and major charter customer approached Shwery with a contract to purchase a Beech 18.

The business flourished with additional services including air ambulance. In 1964, Shwery began one of the country's first commuter airlines, Midstate Airlines with one round trip daily from Marshfield to Wisconsin Rapids, Milwaukee and on to Chicago O'Hare with a return in the evening. Increased demand resulted in increased service with additional flights being made and cities added until eleven cities were involved in the route system. A fleet of six Beech 18s were in service until 1968 when they were replaced by four Beech 99s. In 1977 the fleet was again upgraded to Swearingen Metroliners.

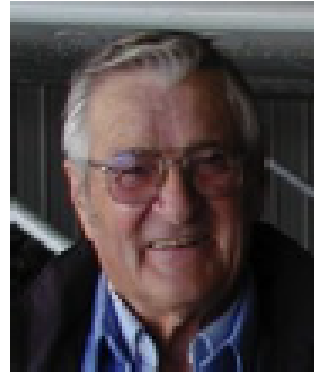
Mr. Shwery has been acknowledged as one of the pioneers in the commuter airline industry. Numerous articles, written in national publications, focused on his early efforts. He served three years on the Board of Directors for the Commuter Airline Association of America during its formative years. In 1978 he was presented with two awards: "The Firm of the Year" from the Marshfield business leaders and the second from the Wisconsin State Aeronautics Commission.

WAHF members can read an update on Roy Shwery in the "Logging Time with Roy Shwery" article in the December 2002 issue of the "WAHF Flyer" newsletter.

In the early 1960s, the City of Marshfield was served by North Central Airlines but the service was inadequate and ill-timed.

Hall of Fame Inductee Harold J. "Duffy" Gaier

Born: 01/06/1930
Inducted: 11/06/2004



Harold 'Duffy' Gaier began his aviation career on the sod runways of Central Wisconsin near his hometown of Colby in 1966. He settled at Neillsville in 1973, where he helped develop the airport, conducted ground school, gave flight instruction and served as FBO. In 1977, he incorporated Neillsville Aviation as a full-service aviation business, including single and multi-engine charters and aircraft leasing.

In 1986, Gaier was named FBO and manager at the Marshfield Airport, doing business as Duffy's Aircraft Sales and Leasing. He continued to work for improvements at both Neillsville and Marshfield airports including: improved lighting, runway extensions, taxiways and ramps. By 2003, Duffy's Aircraft operation included aircraft rental, aircraft leasing, aircraft maintenance and ownership of twenty-nine aircraft.

Along the way, Duffy Gaier acquired his Commercial Pilot certificate with ASMEL and Instrument ratings, Flight Instructor certificate with all fixed wing ratings and was designated as an Airman Examiner by the Federal Aviation Administration. He has flown as a pilot for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, and the United States Farm Service. In 1998, he received the Wisconsin Bureau of Aeronautics Lifetime Achievement Award. Duffy has conducted over 3,500 FAA flight checks, logged over 13,000 hours and has made almost as many friends in and out of aviation.

In 2004, Harold 'Duffy' Gaier continues to be aviation's best friend in central Wisconsin.



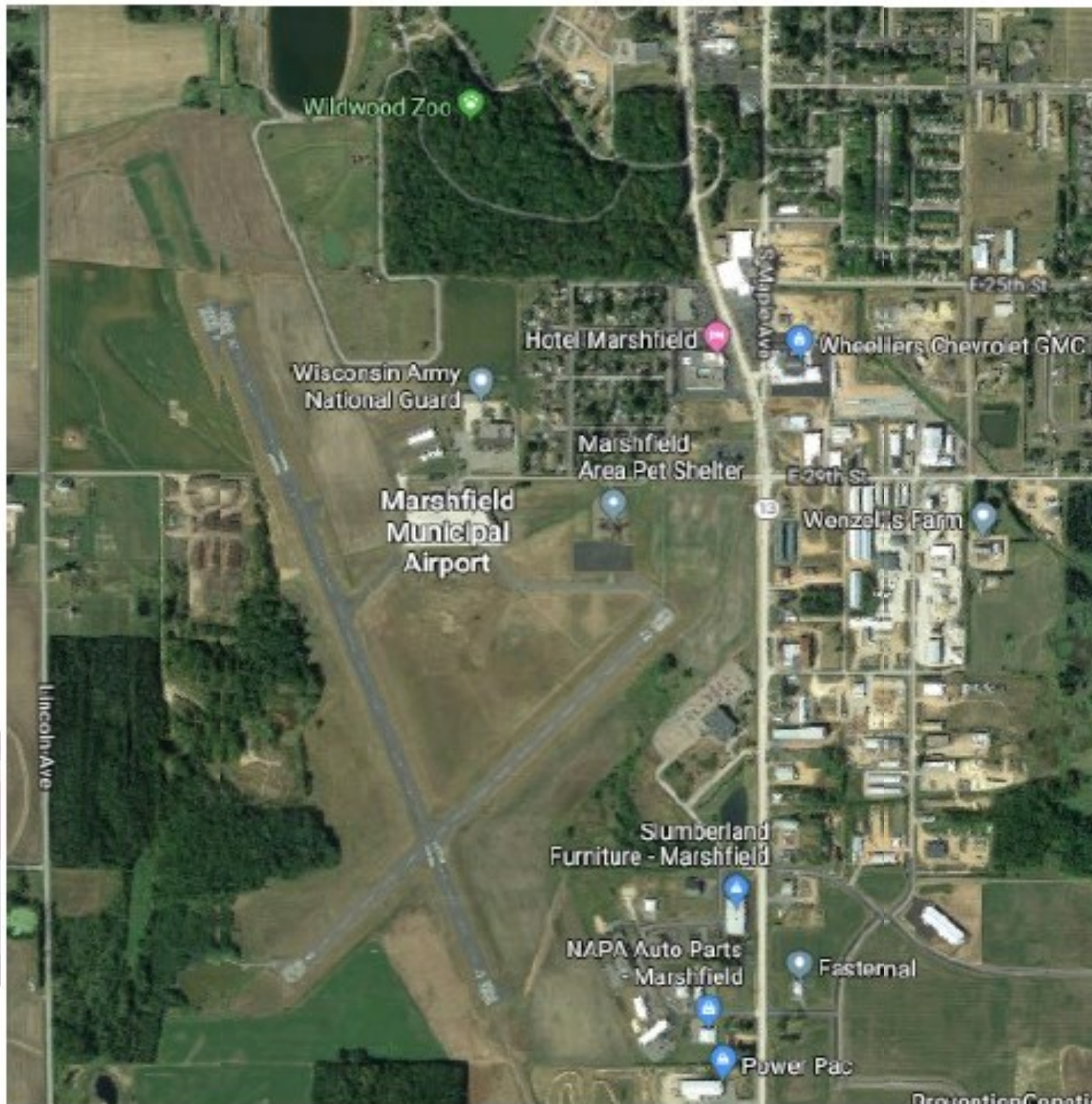
Captain Roy Shwery with a passenger and a Midstate Airlines Beech 18 (submitted photo)



Early Midstate Airlines aircraft, a Beechcraft Model 18. (submitted photo)



Pictured from left to right: Dan Maurer, Roy Shwery and Lois Shwery. This photo was taken at the airport dedication when Roy's name was added to the official name of the airport. (submitted photo)



Bob Kunkel (left) presents Duffy with WisDOT's Lifetime Service Award. (submitted photo)



Duffy is supported by his staff (l to r) Alan Hatz, sons Robert and Jeffrey, Duffy and his wife Alice Gaier. (submitted photo)



Duffy has owned and loved this Piper Super Cruiser for over 40 years. (submitted photo)

Marshfield Historic Brochure Series by the Marshfield Historic Preservation Commission:

Historic Districts:

- Central Avenue Historic District
- Pleasant Hill Residential Historic District
- Upham House Historic District
- West Fifth Street - West Sixth Street Historic District
- West Park Street Historic District

Historic Destination:

- Soo Line Engine 2442
- Marshfield Municipal Airport - Roy Shwery
- World's Largest Round Barn

Additional Homes and Buildings:

- Marshfield Homes of Architectural Interest
- More Marshfield Homes of Historic Interest
- Buildings of Architectural Interest
- Buildings of Historic Importance

For more information contact:

Historic Preservation Commission
207 W 6th Street
Marshfield, WI 54449
<https://www.ci.mar>
Development Services Department
(715) 486-2074

Developed by: The City of Marshfield Historic Preservation Commission

https://www.ci.marshfield.wi.us/government/historic_preservation_commission/index.php

Funded by: City of Marshfield Common Council & the Marshfield Municipal Airport

Directions To Find Online Without QR Codes:

- Go to <http://www.marshfieldgenealogy.com>
- Click on the tab "QR Codes of Historical Marshfield" (in upper right corner)
- Scroll down the page to the "M" tab and click on "Marshfield Municipal Airport" to reach their webpage.



Wisconsin Flying Trees Exhibit at Airport



The Marshfield Municipal Airport and Duffy's Aircraft is proud to host an amazing exhibit right at the Airport Terminal Building of the contributions of Central Wisconsin lumber industry to flying. The exhibit was prepared by Northwood Graphics Display and funded by the Hamilton Roldis Foundation, Plum Creek Timber of Tomahawk and Mead-Winter Foundation through Camp 5 Museum Foundation in Laona. The exhibit is the cumulative work of Sara Witter Connor. The display showcases Wisconsin's Wood industry contributions to aviation and World War II. Stop by the airport during regular business hours to see the display free of charge.

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