



"On Tour"

Celebrating
A NEW WORLD ENDURANCE RECORD
October 10, 1949
1,124 hours & 17 minutes - 47 days

On October 10th, 1949 at 3:25:05 p.m., Woody Jongeward, Bob Woodhouse and the CITY OF YUMA Aeronca airplane landed after setting a new world endurance record by staying aloft 1,124 hours and 17 minutes. They had flown non-stop a total distance of 89,920 miles, equivalent to 3 1/2 times around the equator.

At the end of their record flight, a crowd of 12,000 "Yumans" came to witness the occasion. Both pilots were in good physical condition and each had gained a pound or two.

Ray Smucker had conceived the idea of the flight to promote the excellent flying weather in the Yuma area. Claude Sharpensteen offered to purchase a new Aeronca plane and lend it to the fliers. Business men agreed to serve as the refueling crew. Marsh Aviation & Paul Burch equipped the plane for its long flight. The Valley Cafe offered to provide free meals for the fliers, and Union Oil, through Norman Bann the resident manager, made the plan complete by providing gasoline and oil. Horace Griffin, Buick agency manager, donated the Buick convertible to use as a refueling car.

Everyone else in southern Arizona either helped in some great or small way or spent most of the 47 tense days keeping their fingers crossed.

Minutes before the old record of 1008 hours was to be broken, a similar plane, painted the same (without the lettering) landed giving the onlookers a harrowing moment. Ten minutes later the old record was broken.

On October 10th the CITY OF YUMA did land because of magneto failure. Airplanes

have two magnetos for safety reasons.

The technical experts who flew the CITY OF YUMA and the mechanics inspected its torn down engine soon after the flight. The engine after 145 million revolutions was found to be in excellent condition. The oil consumption had been between 3/8 and 7/16 of a pint per hour, which is quite normal.

The engine had run over two times past the manufactures recommended overhaul period without even a change of spark plugs.

The YUMA JAYCEE FOUNDATION has found the original CITY OF YUMA in Minnesota, purchased it and returned it to Yuma.

The plane has been dismantled and is in the process of being put back into the same condition and looks that it had in 1949. This is being done by all volunteer labor and is progressing so that by the 50th anniversary of the 1949 flight (Oct. 10, 1999) it will be just like the original.

The search is under way to find a 1948 Buick Super convertible similar to the original refueling car. Hopefully this will be possible by the 1999 date.

The YUMA JAYCEE FOUNDATION is a non-profit organization so that any contributions made for the restoration of the CITY OF YUMA are tax deductible. They may be contacted at P.O. Box 121, Yuma, AZ 85366-0121, phone 520-344-3860, Fax 520-317-0705 or e-mail jspencer@primenet.com.



**Sponsored by the
YUMA JAYCEE FOUNDATION
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