

Albany woman made flight instructor history

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ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINATOR

I recently discovered in the Museum's archives another remarkable woman in Albany history. She was Evelyn Burleson Waldren.

Mrs. Waldren was one of the Northwest's best known women aviators. She logged more than 23,700 hours of flying time and received national recognition for her contribution to aviation.

While preparing a traveling exhibit on Albany flight history for Linn-Benton Community College, I came across her photograph and information

in a file from a collection of archives from the late Russell Sprague, another Albany aviator.

Evelyn and her husband, Howard Burleson, managed the Albany Airport from 1937 to 1941.

She was the flight instructor after becoming the second woman in the United States to earn an instructor's rating in 1939.

Born in Nebraska in 1908, she started

flying in 1928 in a surplus World War I open biplane.

On Oct. 1, 1941, Burleson flew non-stop from Vancouver, B.C. to Tijuana, Mexico, in "Miss Liberty," a single-engine Taylor craft, in 16 ½ hours, setting a speed and distance record for light airplanes.

In her 58 years of flying and 47 years as a flight instructor, Burleson trained thousands of pilots. When civilian pilots west of the Cascades were grounded during World War II, she went to Alturas, Calif., to teach military cadets to fly.

Burleson died in 1986 in Vancouver, WA, at age 78.

Albany aviation history includes the initial flight of the first aircraft built in Oregon, constructed and flown by John Burkhart. And Albany was the site of the first airfield in the Northwest that was later developed into an airport under the leadership of Charles J. Langmack.

March is Women's History Month, and I am adding Evelyn Burleson Waldren to my list of notable Albany women.



Flight instructor Evelyn Burleson conducts class.

Brenneman Society member Martha 'Marty' Tripp dies at 91

Brenneman Society member Martha "Marty" Tripp, 91, wife of Albany businessman and community benefactor Rodney Tripp, died February 2.

Mrs. Tripp and her husband were among the founders of the Museum. She had lived in the community since 1936, coming to the city from North Dakota. She graduated from Albany High School in 1937 and attended Northwest Nazarene College in Nampa, ID. She married Mr. Tripp

in 1941.

Active in the revival of the Albany World Championship Timber Carnival after World War II, her involvement was documented in *Tim Burr!*, the Museum's illustrated history book published in July 2010.

Survivors include her husband, son Randall W. "Randy" Tripp of Albany and daughter Julie Lou Tripp of Portland. A memorial service was held at Fisher Funeral Home on Feb. 8.

Memorial roll adds 10 names

Ten names have been added to the Museum's memorial roll since the Fall 2010 newsletter.

They include former state legislator William Gwinn, Dr. Lew Hurd, Len and Sally Britton, Joe Bispham, Esther and Robert Ferguson, Doug Gore, Jerry Murphy and Martha "Marty" Tripp.

Special needs of the Museum are met with memorial gifts that honor a family member or friend. The most common gifts are in the amounts of \$25, \$50 or \$100.

Names of those memorialized are listed in this newsletter, on the Museum's web site (www.armuseum.com) and are posted for a limited time at the Museum.

A card of remembrance is mailed to a designated recipient (spouse, next of kin or other) and a thank-you card to the person or persons making the donation. The card may be used for tax documentation.

Contact the Museum at 541-967-7122 or stop by the reception desk at 136 Lyon St. S. for further information.

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