

GLM's First Flight?

Glenn L. Martin's initial interest and venture into early aviation is shrouded in company-generated lore and a lack of credible reporting from the timeframe. Fortunately, a new piece of documented history has surfaced, surprisingly from a Lockheed source. While paging through a compilation volume of WWII vintage Lockheed –Vega newsletters a photo of GLM visiting the Vega factory in 1941 was featured with a tag line of him "holding a reunion with man who taught him to fly!" A photo of Glenn with B. F. Roehrig and accompanying article describe that Roehrig had constructed a Farnham-type aeroplane in 1909 in the San Diego area. Bernard Francis Roehrig was possibly the first recorded pilot in California and survived a successful early career flying with Lincoln Beechy and Dieder Masson, both pioneering aerial performers. He was credited with receiving the first California Aero License, (Glenn held #2). At the time of the article Roehrig was a receiving inspector at the Vega factory. He also is recorded as participating at the first Domingez Aero Meet in January 1910 but crashed at takeoff. Later he achieved an altitude record flying at 500 feet for 20 minutes receiving the Knabenshue Cup.

So according to the story line, sometime after Dominguez in early 1910, Roehrig invited Glenn to fly in his Farnham where he also received initial flying lessons. So was this event the catalyst that thrust Martin into early aviation? This article would seem to be the "missing link" that we have sought after for quite some time! More corroboration would be helpful so we will continue to search out more pieces of the Martin story.

GLENN MARTIN VISITS VEGA

Shown at right, during the recent visit of Glenn L. Martin to the Vega and Lockheed plants are, left to right: W. G. Hoskinson, chief inspector, and M. A. Deeds, assistant chief inspector, Vega; Mr. Martin and B. F. Roehrig, receiving inspector of Department 45, Vega, who was the first man to give the noted aircraft builder his first ride in an airplane back in 1910. Mr. Martin was a guest of Robert E. Gross, president of Lockheed, during his visit to the plants.



NATIONAL MAGAZINES FEATURE LOCKHEED-VEGA IN NEWS, PICTURES

For the information of those who may desire to procure them, the following articles and pictures on Lockheed and Vega appeared in leading national and trade magazines during September:

- AERO DIGEST**—September
 "Development of Aircraft Control Cables," by Carl Beed.
 "Using Cameras as Aircraft Production Tools," by J. H. Washburn.
 Article and picture of the Vega Ventura.
 Article and picture of the N.E.I. Parachute Troop Lodestars.
- AIR TRAILS**—September
 Picture of the P-38.
 Picture of the Trans-Canada Airlines Lodestars.
- AMERICAN AVIATION**—September 15
 "Vega Gets Funds to Expand Plant."
- AVIATION**—September
 "Specification Engineering," by Peter A. Beck and Richard H. Robb.
 Article on the Vega Production System, by H. A. Ryker.
 Article on Vega's Fluorescent Lighting.
 Article on Army Mechanics Learning to Service the P-38.
- COMMERCIAL AVIATION**—August
 Article on the Yukon Lodestars.
- MACHINERY**—September
 Article on Lockheed's Photo-Loft Template System, by R. A. Von Hake.
- WAR ACES**—September
 Picture of Hudson Bombers.
- WESTERN FLYING**—September
 Vega Test-Flies First Ventura.
 Picture of P-38 Assembly Line.
- WESTERN INDUSTRY**—September
 "The X-Ray Does Its Part Speeding Industry Toward Defense."

HOLDS REUNION WITH MAN WHO TAUGHT HIM TO FLY

A reunion unique in the history of aviation highlighted the recent visit of Glenn L. Martin, famed airplane builder, to the plants of the Lockheed and Vega companies, for among those in the Vega reception party for the noted guest was the man who gave him his first airplane ride way back in 1910—B. F. Roehrig, now Receiving Inspector in Department 45, Vega.

Added interest was given the reunion by the fact that it brought together again, after many years, the two men who hold the first two flying licenses ever issued on the Pacific Coast. Mr. Roehrig holds the first, Mr. Martin the second.

It was back in 1909 that Mr. Roehrig built his first ship in San Diego and demonstrated to Mr. Martin, who was then in the auto business in the same city, that it would actually fly. First plane ever seen by the man who now heads one of the biggest aircraft companies in America, the ship was of the Farman type fitted with a 90 h.p. 6-cylinder "Featherweight" motor, but with it Mr. Roehrig made an altitude record in 1910 by soaring 500 feet into the air for 20 minutes of sustained flight, for which he was awarded the Knabenshue Cup.

Among other famous fliers whom he introduced to aviation was Lincoln Beechey. That picturesque pioneer took his first airplane ride with and was taught

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GLENN L. MARTIN IN HISTORIC REUNION

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to fly by Mr. Roehrig, who continued his barnstorming trips throughout the country after Beechey was killed. A companion barnstormer in 1910 and 1911 was Didier Masson, who later became Air Minister of France.

Among Mr. Roehrig's souvenirs of those stirring times are his Number 1 license and yellowed clippings from the San Diego newspapers showing pictures of his original "crate," and stories depicting the pride of San Diego in his achievements.

GLENDALE CLASSES

Four lectures are being given by Miss Floy A. Taylor in the Glendale Evening High School on Wednesday evenings for feminine office employees.

IN FILE
BORNED F. MASSON, RH
CHARLES WALSH
FA RICHARD PUSHER
FIRST FLOWN JULY 1910
POSSIBLE CONSTRUCTION
PRIOR TO FIRST DOMINGUE
JAN. 1910 FLOW 2ND
BUT CRASHED
GCM'S FIRST X/C RIDE
DIED AUG - 1948 SUICIDE?
WORKED WITH MASSON ON
CA/AZ FLYING EVENTS

1910 IS BEARING THE HONORS IN THE NEW