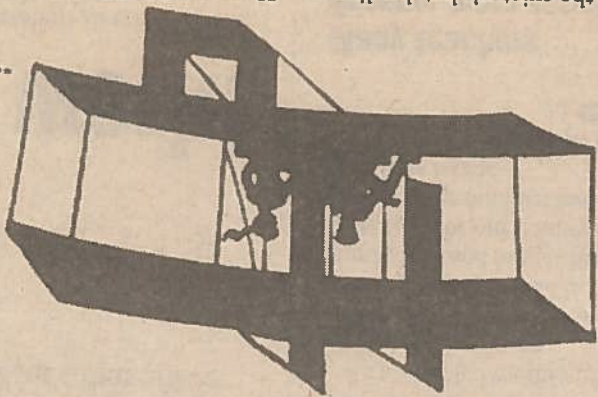


Looking at early Aeroplane flight

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The following article is taken from the Medina Daily Journal, dated Aug. 26, 1911. It describes an early aeroplane flight and exhibition, which took place on the old racetrack off Salt Works Road by the railroad west of Medina.

As you read this, you will surely see aviation was in its infancy.

"George Smith of Rutland, Vermont, attempted to make an aeroplane flight at the old racetrack grounds late yesterday afternoon, but because of trouble with his engine was obliged to come to the ground after flying over the fence into Dan Cleary's bean patch.

"Smith and his mechanics worked hard all day yesterday to get ready to fly at five o'clock and at that hour the racetrack grounds were well filled with people, there being several thousand in attendance. The crowd waited patiently for the tests to be made. Although hidden from view by the hangar, they were anxious, and there was no discontent.

"Smith started from the extreme east at about six o'clock and the engine was working beautifully. The machine skidded along the ground like a wounded dove and then Smith tilted her up and she started to rise, when off

flew the aviator's hat, landing as luck would have it, in the propeller and causing the engine to skip so badly that a descent was necessary.

"No more attempts were made last night and it was announced that a flight would be made at 11 this morning. Those who were fortunate enough to go to the aviation field were rewarded with a thrilling sight. Smith got away to a grand start and circled the field four or five times at a height of about 200 feet doing several dips and turning in circles to the delight of the crowd. He remained in the air about ten minutes and those who witnessed the birdman are loud in their praise of his ability and the exhibition.

"Many downtown were quite disappointed because the aviator did not come down over Main St. and there was considerable chagrin because of it.

However, Mr. J. P. Gallagher, who has been in charge of that part of the program, is to be complimented on the unceasing efforts to get the people of Medina and vicinity a successful flight. The aviator does not like to fly over thickly populated sections because if the machine goes wrong, he has no chance to alight without extreme danger.

"Another flight will take place at five this afternoon and it may be the birdman will come downstreet so that he can be seen from the business section."