

2 Brothers Drove from Greenville To Madisonville in 2 Hours in 1910

By **AGNES HARRALSON**

The speed of transportation is an amazing thing in the thoughts of each generation. We have recently watched as Echo I went swiftly through the sky as it circled the globe, and wondered how long before the man-made and man-controlled space ship would be traveling in the same path.

The letter from Capt. Tommy Goff of Luzerne a short time ago from Goose Bay, Labrador sent me off to check on the speed at which he flew the F-106 Delta Dart last year. It was twice the speed of sound.

It is just 50 years, and believe me, 50 years is not such a long period of time. Louisville was getting set for something new. On June 18 and 19, 1910 they were to have the very first "Aviation Meet" in this section of the country. Many men from Muhlenberg made the trip that week end by train to attend the meet and

see the men who were making unbelievable records in speed. Young Glen Curtis was there with his bi-plane, the same one in which he had, the Sunday before made famous flight from Albany to New York City, a distance of 137 miles, in two hours and 30 minutes. He made the spectacular flight with only one stop for gasoline, and was witnessed by hundreds of thousands of watchers along the route. He beat the fastest train time between the two points by eight minutes and won the \$10,000 award offered by the New York World. The men from Muhlenberg who saw Glen Curtis in Louisville that day in 1910 never forgot him as they read the great strides he made and the changes he wrought in aviation history in the years that followed.

Automotive

The automotive industry was getting off to a good start in the county in 1910 but no one thought of driving a car to Louisville.

The week before the event Fred and L. W. Irvin had driven their Oldsmobile to Madisonville and had made the trip in a little better than two hours each way, and said they made the trip on about seven gallons of gasoline. This was the longest trip they had made up to that time. Their car was no doubt the same car they had bought from Buren Martin and was the first car in the county.

Motorcycles, too

It was in May 1910 that Will Hunt of Luzerne bought the first motorcycle ever used in Muhlenberg County. The first day he rode it into Greenville he attracted more attention than a full-grown circus. As he rode around the streets he collected a large bunch of bicycle riders who tried to keep up with him but failed, and when he stopped he was quickly surrounded by the curious. And it was not long until others were buying contraptions of which they thought was the "last word," but we have not seen the last word yet. . . . Yet we are beginning to wonder? ? ?

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