



## **STATE OF THE AIRPORT FY 2019/2020**

### **BONNIE CAFÉ – MT. VERNON**

Bonnie Café opened inside the Koziara Terminal on May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at 6:00 a.m. The restaurant has become one of the area's busiest and most respected establishments. Bonnie Café ownership and management worked alongside airport maintenance for many weeks to make the necessary improvements to the facilities. The result was a welcoming, visually appealing, and efficiently functioning establishment. Great tasting food, affordable prices, and great service are Bonnie Café traditions. The Bonnie Café/Mt. Vernon Airport partnership is poised for many years of success!

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### **ILLINOIS AVIATION HALL OF FAME – EARL OUTLAND**

Mt. Vernon Outland Airport's first manager (and airport namesake) was inducted posthumously into the Illinois Aviation Hall of Fame at the annual Illinois Aviation Conference in Peoria. Outland, one of the first to fly at the privately owned 60-acre grass field east of the City, oversaw the dramatic transformation of the facility leading to the all-weather 1100 acre airport enjoyed today. During World War II, Earl Outland proudly served in the United States Army Air Corps as Director of Training for the 20<sup>th</sup> Ferry Group based at Nashville, Tennessee. The list of aircraft Outland flew was extensive and can easily be described as "everything the allies operated". *"It is easy to see why the City of Mt. Vernon and the Jefferson County Board rallied the community to name the airport in Earl's honor immediately after his passing in 1966. He WAS aviation to this community."* Chris Collins, Airport Director

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### **EVENTS**

National Aviation Events such as the 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual EAA Airventure Cup Race and Midwest LSA Expo brought large numbers of visitors and aircraft to the airport. Good weather prevailed at both events. Nearly 100 cars showed up for the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Bonnie Café Car Show and Aviation Extravaganza. EAA Chapter 1155 pilots and ground support volunteers flew 166 Young Eagles during the calendar year.

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### **BUSINESS GROWTH**

Hertz added a second full time sales associate in their Koziara Terminal Lobby Office. Kash Helicopters added a full-time aircraft maintenance department. Both entities also added part time personnel.

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### **FUTURE PROGRAMS**

EAA Chapter 1155, SRT Aviation, and the MVAA hosted the airport's 1<sup>st</sup> Flying Start Event. The Flying Start curriculum places local pilot wannabees with instructors and aviation professionals to answer all questions related to achieving a pilot's license. At

the end of the program the participants logged actual aircraft time. EAA Members partnered with the Rend Lake Remote Control Aircraft Club to launch a Young Eagles Build and Fly Program. Adult leaders worked with area youth to construct and fly a remote control aircraft. Two scholarships were awarded during the year to aspiring aviation professionals through the Larry Sargent Memorial Scholarship Program. The EAA Aviation Scholarship was awarded to two local flight students desiring either a career in aviation or the dream of aircraft ownership.

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### **AVIATION REPORT**

The Annual Aviation Report for calendar year 2019 was published in February, 2020. Total operations increased 5% over the previous year (267,333 in 2019 as compared to 26,030 in 2018). Total based inventory decreased from 53-45 (33 Single Engine Land, 7 Multi-Engine Land, 1 Jet, and 3 Helo). The inventory decrease is attributable to AIRGO relocating their initial and multi-engine training fleet back to Centralia in the fall of 2019.