



## PEARSON FIELD Education Center

### **American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics monument placed in permanent location**

September 8, 2015

On the morning of 19 September 1905, an odd-shaped bulbous object lifted off from the banks of Guild's Lake, in Portland Oregon, flew over the Columbia River, and 40 minutes later landed at Vancouver Barracks, in Vancouver, Washington. Lincoln Beachey had successfully piloted his Baldwin Airship across the Columbia to deliver an air mail letter to General Constant Williams, Commanding, Department of the Columbia, Vancouver Barracks, Washington.

The letter read: *"Dear Sir I have the honor to convey to you, by bearer, the compliments of the president of the Exposition, Mr. H. W. Goode and to express the hope that this uniquely transmitted message will be delivered to you promptly and safely by Aeronaut Lincoln Beachey, the pilot of Captain Baldwin's airship 'City of Portland.'* If this message reaches you as we now have every confidence it will, you will enjoy the distinction of being the first one to have ever received a document conveyed under similar auspices, and President Goode and myself will share your honors in being the first to transmit the name. Yours very truly. (Signed.) THEODORE HARDEE. Assistant to the President." This historic event was recorded on the front page (column 3) of the Portland Oregonian the following morning (<http://oregonnews.uoregon.edu/lccn/sn83025138/1905-09-20/ed-1/seq-1/>). So began the story of Pearson Field, the oldest continuously operating airfield in the Pacific Northwest and one of the two oldest continuously operating airfields in the United States.

In a ceremony held September 8, 2012 Pearson Field received recognition as an American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA) historic aerospace site. Pearson joined a list of 59 other historically significant aviation sites including Kitty Hawk, NC; The Boeing Red Barn in Seattle, WA; First Balloon Launch Site, Annonay, France; College Park Airport, College Park, MD; Cape Canaveral, FL; Tranquility Base, The Moon; and others. The recognition was memorialized with a plaque from AIAA and a monument from the community celebrating the achievements, historic figures, and events that have occurred at Pearson Field since that famous day in 1905.



On September 8, 2015 the monument completed its long journey to a permanent location viewable by visitors interested in learning more about the enduring spirit of discovery demonstrated by generations of aviators at Pearson Field.