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# Data Relative to Houlton Airport

By William H. Cumming

Brother to Irvin R. H. Cumming First Station Manager for the Old Boston & Maine Airways and the second to land his private plane a Chalanger Travelair 185 Horsepower - No brakes, just a skid on the rear. First to land was James Colton and his plane. I do not know the make, but he had been out to the Ford Factory I understood, learned to fly, and returned to his native town.

You may wonder who I am that I should be writing these few words of data about the airport in Houlton Maine. I am a citizen of Houlton having lived here since 1894. Followed the Profession of Pharmacy for a length of time. Entered Drug Store work on April 25 1910 Retired at the age of 82, now going on 96. Served as Cooperative Observer for the Weather Service of the U.S. Government for over 50 years and always interested in the happenings of life as it unwound year after year, so took notes in my diary so I could pass on a few events to some one else if interested. — Enough Said!

• Irvin Cumming, First Station Manager at Houlton Airport. His uniform came Sept 3, 1937

Installing Radio Transmitter at the Airport Sept. 4, 1937

Irvin sent the first Weather Report to the Boston and Maine Airways <sup>Sept. 5, 1937</sup> by radio Telegram <sub>Aug 4</sub>

The first Air Express out of Houlton H Airport was to Helen Hughes (local girl) in California Oct, 25, 1937.

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The first Air Express in at the Houlton Airport was Oct. 26, 1937.

The first Autogiro flew over town July 17, 1931.  
NOTE (that was before the Airport)

Five planes in town July 26 1931.

Moved the Water Co. garage at the pumping station on Smyrna St. was moved to the Airport Aug. 2, 1937 as the first Airport Station and Office

Boston & Maine R.R. and Maine Central established (for the second time) an air line between Boston, Portland, Rockland, Waterville and Bangor. Two Tri-motored planes made the trip with Amelia Earhart Putnam as passenger also with many notables in the business world. (Mrs. Dot Tribert, only woman aviator of Maine greeted Miss Putnam. The air line may be permanent.

The Italian Air Fleet passed 14 miles south of Houlton 24 planes on their way to Montreal + Chicago World Fair Fri. July 14, 1933

The first night flying in Houlton 9:30 PM James Collins and Irvin Cumming with him - Five flights on Drakes Hill July 3 1933. Headlights from Automobiles for landings.

Irvin's first solo flight at LOVE FIELD DALLAS TEXAS took place March 14, 1932.

He arrived home (Houlton) in an old rattle trap car from Dallas Texas May 10 1932. Took him seven days to get here. He has a Commercial pilots license also Radio Pilots License.

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James Colton arrived with a new plane. A Waco Bi-plane and landed in Houlton on the Ketcham Farm on the North Road in Houlton. He will conduct a flying school. Curtis OX 5 Motor with dual ignition. Purchased at Pontiac, Mich. Airport. May 12<sup>th</sup> (Pioneer Times)

William Alexander a former Houlton boy who I believe was the first to fly across to Bermuda. He flew over town in his Bellanca plane on way to Presque Isle, Aug 29, 1933,

A U.S. Navy plane landed at Peabody Farm Field (Irvin's field) Sept. 27, 1934 and was out there all night with plane Sept. 28, 1934

Irvin flew to Augusta Aug. 14, 1934 to be present while Amelia Earhart was there,

Clarence Chamberlain flew over town at noon Big Bi-motor Curtis Condor plane. Headed north at noon. Carries 21 passengers. Consumes 80 gallons an hour. Fri. May 30, 1935

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# Notes From My Diary

Corner Stone at the Post Office May 28 1935  
 Hardwood Mill got up steam Oct 2, 1927  
 Under date of Friday Sept. 9, 1927 Sir John Carling  
 lost at sea and the plane "Old Glory" is down  
 in the Atlantic 500 miles east of Newfoundland.  
 It left Old Orchard (Diary date) Sept. 6, 1927  
 John Carling plane left Washington. A monoplane  
 this morning Sept. 5, 1927 at 9:00 A.M. Two more  
 planes at Old Orchard "Old Glory," going to Rome  
 "Windsor" to Windsor, England  
 Monoplane piloted by Captain Terry Tully and  
 Lt. James Metcalf on flight from London, Ont. Canada  
 to London, England came down in a field at Washburn  
 Maine. Col. Munchin and Capt. Hamilton is long  
 over due. Diary date Sept. 2, 1927.  
 Merle Fogg flying passengers Sept. 2, 1927 \$500 per  
 10 minute flight. Licence No 210, Waco. Irvins'  
 first flight August 31, 1927.  
 Balloon ascension at the park Aug 31, 1927 a  
 lady made two parachute jumps. Sept 1st, brother George  
 first flight. Sept 2, 1928 Charles Treat on the North  
 Road was flying passengers. Two or three hundred people  
 there. Harold Brown joined by parachute.  
 Stable behind the Exchange Hotel being torn down.  
 Capt. Charles Nungasser and Coli left France  
 May 8, 1927 for the U.S. think they crashed near  
 Round Lake near Machias, Maine

MY NOTE P.S. there has been considerable in the papers 1987-1988  
 searching for any remains at this late date 1988.

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