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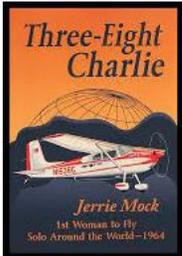
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ANOKA COUNTY-BLAINE AIRPORT

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HEROES OF AVIATION



April 17, 2014 marked the 50th Anniversary of a world record in aviation with the successful solo around the world flight by Geraldine “Jerrie” Fredritz Mock, daughter of Timothy and Blanche (nee Wright) Fredritz.

At the age of 7 Geraldine’s father Tim had an opportunity for a 15 minute ride in a Ford Tri-motor that would introduce her to a life-long love of flying. Geraldine enjoyed geography and engineering as her high school courses and decided flying was her true passion. After graduating from Newark High School in 1943 she attended Ohio State University and studied aeronautical engineering. Her marriage to Russell Mock in 1945 would postpone her flying interests until 1956 when she began flying lessons earning her private pilot certification in 1958.

Registering a Global Flight Plan

Cross-country flights with her husband were highlights and fulfilled her desire for flying as she began making her own flight plans. Inspired by Amelia Earhart and on the suggestion from her husband, Geraldine registered a flight plan that would follow the same route planed by Amelia Earhart. Amelia disappeared on July 2, 1937 during her around the world flight. Amelia was an early pioneer of feminine pilots and by the 60s Geraldine was one of 12,471 women in the United States then licensed to fly. By 1962 Geraldine had accumulated 750 flight hours and an instrument rating and filed her flight plan for a feminine round the world flight that was officially sanctioned by the National Aeronautic Association. Russell and business partner Al Beumeister prepared Geraldine’s 1953 Cessna 180 single-engine monoplane named the “Spirit of Columbus” for long-distance flying. A new 225 hp was installed along with a twin radio direction finder (ADF), short-range VHF NAV/Coms, a long range HF radio with trailing antenna, autopilot, and a new compass. David Blanton of Javelin Aircraft Company designed



the three extra fuel tanks and engineered the installation by removing the three passenger seats that would bring the total fuel on board to 178 gallons, increasing the range of flight to 2400 nautical miles. Fully fueled the Cessna 180 weighed nearly 408 kg (900 pounds) more than normal. The FAA allowed this with a ferry permit. Geraldine stowed very few personal items along with portable oxygen and survival gear. USAF personnel prepared jet-navigation strip charts and various en route terrain, radio station and other com/nav charts and publications. Visas and clearances were acquired in Washington from the various embassies of the countries that Geraldine would be visiting.



Geraldine “Jerrie” departed Columbus, Ohio at 9:31 am on March 19, 1964. After 29 days and 21 stopovers she landed her Cessna 180 named the “Spirit of Columbus” at Columbus, Ohio arriving at 9:36 pm on April 17, 1964. Her flight plan of almost 22,860 miles (39,790 km) included documentation of time of departure and time of arrival at each stop by officials along the route.

In 1970 “Jerrie” Mock published the story of her flight titled *Three-Eight-Charlie* referring to the call sign, N1538C of her Cessna 180 Skywagon. That first publication is now out of print but a reissued printing was published in 2013.

Geraldine Mock flew for the love of flying but in so doing broke many records in endurance, speed and distance. She is among the ranks of several feminine pilots that have contributed to Aerospace history and inspiration to the young flyers that have the opportunity to get into an airplane and feel the controls in their hands and are inspired by Amelia Earhart, Bessie Colman, Phoebe Omlie, Margaret Ringenberg, Jacqueline Cochran, Raymonde de Laroche, Bobbie Trout, Ruth Rowland Nichols, Katherine Stinson, Mary Ellen Webber, Harriet Quimby, or Sally Ride & Ninety-Nines.