

First Airplane Lands

In the 1920s, at the height of the jazz age, barnstorming became a popular form of entertainment. Individual pilots and flying circuses toured the country, performing stunts and offering rides for a minimal fee. Increased air safety regulations caused the practice to fade by the 1930's, though some pilots continued the practice into the 1940's. During this time the most popular barnstorming plane was a bi-plane known as the Curtiss JN-4, popularly known as the "Jenny."

A photograph in the archives of the Coppel Historical Society shows a "Jenny" surrounded by curious Coppel residents. A note on the back reads, "First airplane to land in Coppel, up toward the railroad." According to the late Martha Jo Cozby, the plane landed in a pasture and offered rides on a Sunday afternoon in the 1940's.

For a fee of \$5.00, Martha Jo "slipped the surly bonds of Earth and danced the skies."

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