

***HISTORY OF THE FORD TRIMOTOR,  
Arriving at Butler County Airport on Thurs., July 9th  
1928 Ford Tri-Motor 5-AT-B, serial No. 8***



Henry Ford mobilized millions of Americans and created a new market with his Model T “Tin Lizzie” automobile from 1909 to 1926. After World War I, he recognized the potential for mass air transportation.

Ford’s Tri-Motor aircraft, nicknamed “The Tin Goose,” was designed to build another new market, airline travel. To overcome concerns of engine reliability, Ford specified three engines and added features for passenger comfort, such as an enclosed cabin. The first three Tri-Motors built seated the pilot in an open cockpit, as many pilots doubted a plane could be flown without direct “feel of the wind.”

From 1926 through 1933, Ford Motor Company built 199 Tri-Motors. One was flown over the geographic South Pole in November of 1929; another took Franklin D. Roosevelt to stops on the campaign trail in 1932. Famous pilots who flew the Trimotor included Charles Lindbergh and Amelia Earhart.

The Ford Trimotor was featured in a number of movies, including 'Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom', 'The Untouchables', 'Public Enemies', and, in 1936, in Episode 1 of 'Flash Gordon'.

Liberty Aviation Museum's 1928 Ford Tri-Motor 5-AT-B, serial No. 8, flew its first flight on December 1, 1928. It was sold to Transcontinental Air Transport (TAT, the logo that graces the aircraft's fuselage today) in January 1929 where it became NC9645 and was named *City of Wichita*. It inaugurated westbound transcontinental commercial air service on July 7, 1929, with sister ship *City of Columbus*.

In April 1931, ownership of the aircraft was transferred to Transcontinental and Western Air (TWA). Here the aircraft helped in the development of TWA's route system.

In July 1935, NC9645 was sold to G. Ruckstill and entered the fleet at Grand Canyon Airlines. From there the Tin Goose was sold to Boulder Dam Tours in February 1937, where it entered sightseeing air tour service.

The Ford was registered AN-AAS with Transportes Aereos del Continente Americano (simply known as TACA Airlines) in Honduras in December 1937, where it stayed until 1942 when purchased by an unknown operator in Compeche, Mexico, and was reregistered as XA-FUB.

The aircraft was eventually purchased by Nevada's William F. Harrah of Harrah's Hotel and Casinos. The Ford aircraft had its first post-restoration flight in 1971 and flew in Reno several times before being moved to static display as part of Harrah's impressive automobile collection.

In 2014, the aircraft was acquired by Ed Patrick and the Liberty Aviation Museum in Port Clinton, Ohio.

This beautiful, restored, vintage aircraft will be coming to Butler County Airport from July 9-12, 2015, offering a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to take to the air in one of only 8 remaining Ford Trimotor aircraft still flying. Butler County Airport has its own place in aviation history; the Trimotor stopped there; Amelia Earhart spent time at Butler Airport as well, having maintenance work done on one of her airplanes.



For more information, or to book a flight, please visit [www.flytheford.org](http://www.flytheford.org) or call 1-877-952-5395

Opportunities to secure the entire airplane for a private, VIP flight are available as a unique experience for family, friends, or business associates. These sponsorships include a welcome cocktail reception when the aircraft arrives on Thurs., July 9<sup>th</sup>, as well as a private meeting with the pilot, pictures for each member of your group, alongside the airplane, and customization of your flight route. Several levels of sponsorships are available; for interested businesses. The top sponsorships include advertisement at the event. For more information regarding sponsorships, please contact Sue Hostler, at [SueTrimotor1@gmail.com](mailto:SueTrimotor1@gmail.com), or at 724-933-8084. A truly unique experience, flying in a fully restored, 1928 aircraft, unlike any other.