

# Albert Whitted AIRPORT *Flyer*



Vol. 1  
No. 2

An Occasional Newsletter of the  
Albert Whitted Airport Preservation Society

Fall  
2004

## Suncoast AirFest Ready for Take- Off Oct. 9&10

The Suncoast AirFest is taking shape with the AeroShell Aerobatic Team plus Freddie Cabanas (T-28), Steve



Coan (glider), Jim Maroney (Chipmunk), John Mohr (Stearman) and Bud Walker (Pitts); also on tap are military fly-bys, World War II and vintage aircraft performances, and numerous static display aircraft.

Spectators can expect two action-packed days of fun, food, music and an up-close look at displays ranging from early military Warbirds and military vehicles to modern day experimental aircraft.

A KidsZone exhibit will feature a flight simulator just for youngsters, plus exhibits and activities from Great Explorations Museum, St. Pete Historical Museum, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, the 99's (a women's aviation group), the Pier Aquarium, YMCA and YWCA, PARC, plus clowns and face painters.

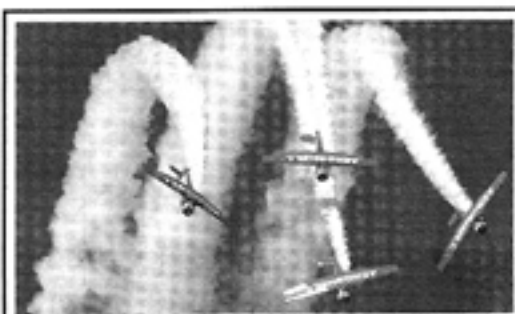
As for good food, there'll be plenty: DoAl Barbecue, Chick-Fil-A, Cafe Alma, Harvey's 4th Street Grill, New York Italian Ice, Le Cheesecake, M&D Kettle Corn, and Applefrankies funnel cakes, plus beer and wine, will be available this year.

Spectators can also enjoy live music, sign up for free Young Eagles flights (kids 16 and under), and meet NASA Shuttle Pilot Greg Harbaugh.

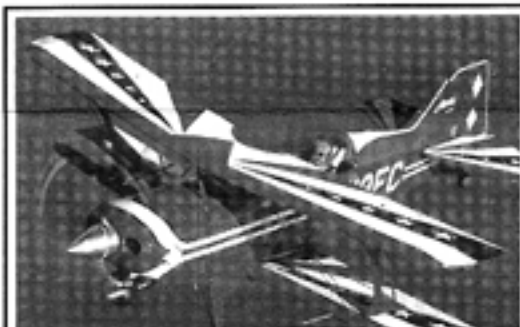
## AeroShell Team Headlines Suncoast AirFest

A formation aerobatic team flying the World War II North American Advanced Trainer, will thrill Suncoast AirFest goers as these valiant old birds are taken through a

series of precision formation aerobatic maneuvers. The AeroShell Team combines the skill, competence and flair of the pilots with the roar and billowing smoke of the powerful 600 HP Pratt and Whitney engines. AirFest audiences will



AeroShell Team is slated to thrill spectators on Saturday and Sunday with their dramatic precision formation aerobatics.



Freddie Cabanas will perform aerobatic stunts in his Pitt T-28 at Suncoast AirFest 2004.

witness a series of precision formation aerobatic maneuvers, including the bomb burst, the vertical rejoin, avalanche and breath-taking "Switch Blade", along with graceful loops and rolls. The Team will bring a lump to your throat and a tear of remembrance to your eye.

continued on  
page 4

## Welcome!

Thank you for your feedback on our inaugural newsletter of the *Flyer*! Issue No. 2 is focused on SunCoast AirFest 2004, October 9-10. This is the largest single undertaking of AWAPS, generating funds to carry out our mission of enhancing and preserving Albert Whitted Airport, and engaging many thousands of people who might otherwise not visit our wonderful team in downtown St. Pete. Whitted Airport has much to offer the community and the potential to offer even more. This newsletter is but one tool in the communication of the airport's features and potential. We welcome suggestions, and encourage your contributions and feedback.

Mark Bogue  
Communications Chair

## Volunteers Needed!

It takes A LOT of volunteers to plan an event of this magnitude and to man all the jobs for two show days, but it's fun and rewarding, too! If you can be a part of Suncoast AirFest 2004 as one of our valued volunteers, please visit [www.suncoastairfest.com](http://www.suncoastairfest.com) or call AWAPS office 727-822-1532 and leave a message. Don't wait, sign up now!!

## Coming in Future Issues:

- Plans for an education center and museum.
- 2005 Calendar of Events.
- Santa's 2004 arrival at Albert Whitted.



## Do We Have Your Current Email?

Send a message titled "update my email" to [awapsoffice@albertwhittedairport.org](mailto:awapsoffice@albertwhittedairport.org) and please include your name.

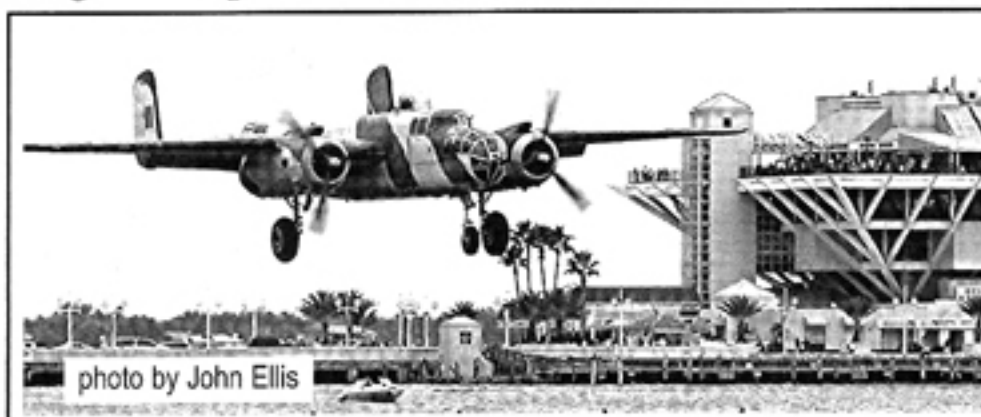


photo by John Ellis

Suncoast AirFest 2004 will include military flybys and static displays for a close-up investigation of these vintage masterpieces.

## AWAPS Contacts

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www.albertwhittedairport.org

Albert Whitted Airport Preservation Society  
is a 501c3 non-profit corporation.  
Your contribution is tax deductible.

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Sherri Weaver - Airport Operations  
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727 822-4217

Jack Tunstill - Airport Advisory Committee  
727 415-3357

Bill Buston - EAA Young Eagles  
727 894-2072

Bob Adams - Flying Start Program  
727 544- 8124

Gene Olson - Civil Air Patrol  
727 522-0593

## Join AWAPS Now!

Sign up for free AWAPS membership and receive every issue of the Albert Whitted *Flyer* by mail. It's easy to stay updated on upcoming events and current news, just log on to [www.AlbertWhittedAirport.org](http://www.AlbertWhittedAirport.org) and click on the "Membership" button. Thanks for your support of Albert Whitted Airport.

## General Meeting Covers All

AWAPS members and volunteers attended the General Meeting Sept. 8 to get the latest on AWAPS's plans and needs particularly with regard to the Suncoast AirFest. In a spacious meeting room donated by the St. Petersburg Hilton, volunteers signed up for AirFest tasks, such as taking tickets, selling food, drink and souvenirs, and assisting pilots.

Throughout the meeting, names (written on toy airplanes!) were drawn to present prizes to those who signed up for volunteer positions.

Additionally, attendees pledged funds for two planned observation areas, funds which will be used to obtain matching Neighborhood Partnership grants from the City.

Task Force member Joe Vulgamore asked for member support at two upcoming City Council events, a workshop on September 14 and formal presentation of Task Force recommendations on September 16th.

Terri Griner shared her excitement about AWAPS's new Office Space, Pilot Lounge and Community Education Center, and Bill Shivers solicited volunteers to help prep the space for the AirFest and improvements that will be made after October. (See related story, next page.)



## Blue Ribbon Report

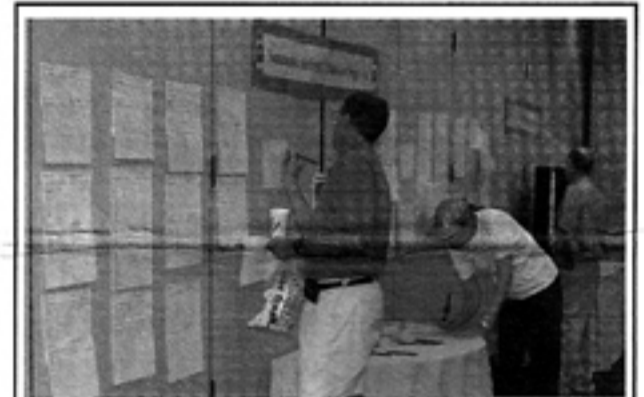
*An update from the City of St. Petersburg's Albert Whitted Airport Blue Ribbon Task Force Committee*

As this newsletter goes to press, the final draft of the Task Force report has been provided to City Council and the Mayor so they may study it for a Council Workshop to be held Sept. 14. A formal presentation is scheduled at the Sept. 16 Council meeting.

Money is the biggest factor facing any of the Task Force recommendations. FAA and FDOT budgets now in development are for fiscal 2009-2010. In the meantime, we have some funds to improve the airport via "General Aviation Entitlements". SPG received \$450,000 which must be matched by local funds. A \$150,000



AWAPS Communications Chair Mark Bogue brought the General Meeting to order and conducted the door prize drawings. Lucky members won hats, pins and T-shirts.



All the volunteer tasks (12' worth!) related to staging Suncoast AirFest were posted on a wall at the St. Pete Hilton for the General Meeting. Volunteers are still needed for Oct. 9 & 10! The list is now posted in the new AWAPS office space, so you can check it out and sign up in person, or call the AWAPS office at 727-822-1532. Or, email your volunteer choice: [awapsoffice@albertwhittedairport.org](mailto:awapsoffice@albertwhittedairport.org). Please include your phone number!!

grant accepted earlier this summer by the City to revise the 1999 Airport Master Plan is part of that \$450,000. The next \$150,000 will be available in Fiscal 05, beginning Oct. 1, 2004. The final \$150,000 installment will be available in Fiscal 06. The City has to identify projects that can be considered by FAA/FDOT in releasing the remaining \$300,000. Some of these funds may be used to start implementing the Task Force Recommendations.

We must continue the pressure on our local officials to put these recommendations into action. Please try to attend the 9/14 workshop and 9/16 Council meeting, and let Council know of your interest with an email to [council@stpete.org](mailto:council@stpete.org).

--Jack Tunstill  
AOPA Airport Support Network

## Log Book:

An Occasional look at  
Who's Who at Whitted

Retired Air Force Lt. Col. John Cureton got some of his early aviation experience as a navigator on board RB-50 aircraft. Those missions included some specialized photography, much of which served to establish aeronautical maps used by pilots worldwide.

John and his son Rick took on a "labor of love" for the Suncoast AirFest: they are coordinating all the Warbird participants. John says the list

of Warbirds anticipated for the event include: a B-25 Bomber "Killer Bee"; an F-16 and P-51 Heritage Flight, where the modern fighter is juxtaposed in flight with its vintage predecessor; a Stinson Tri-Motor; a freshly restored P-40; a Fokker Triplane; a Coast Guard C-130 in a demo flight with a Coast Guard helicopter; Apache Long Bow helicopters; several T-6s, T-28s and T-34Cs.

You'll find John and Rick in Hangar #51, keeping their T-28 and Cessna 335 in tip-top shape for "once-a-week or so" flights.

## AWAPS is Growing & On the Move!

We are moving our teeny tiny office to a much larger space, in the center of the old Bay Air location. The benefits of this new space are many, beginning with much better public access to AWAPS. We'll have three times as much room, plus we'll have a kitchen and restroom. It will be a great convenience to have all AWAPS supplies and materials in one location. It will also provide our members and committees the opportunity to gather and work in a community space at the airport.

Our first priority related to this move is to transfer the existing office into the new space and then whip it into shape for Suncoast AirFest command headquarters. This involves some painting and carpentry, installing shelves, bulletin boards and lighting. This phase is underway now.

After Suncoast AirFest 2004, a cockpit seating area in the front windows will be built, complete with headsets to listen to the control tower. This will provide new pilots the opportunity for some practical experience in tower and aviation language. Kids will undoubtedly love this, too.

The decor will, of course, be in an aviation theme. There will be space for pilots to compare notes (brag), check the weather, use computers for simulation, read and study. Aviation memorabilia, books and such that generous folks have donated, will be on display.

It all sounds great, doesn't it? But we need your help with many tasks. Can you donate time or materials to this effort? Check the chart at right for a list of specifics that we hope



John Cureton, shown here conducting some of the "two hours' TLC for every one hour of flight time" on his T-28, has been involved at Albert Whitted over the last 30 years. In 1975 he bought a Piper Lance and began keeping it at Whitted.



Rick Cureton flies the Cureton T-28 in formation with others at a formation training clinic at Sebring earlier this year. He is now formation qualified and you'll see him at Suncoast AirFest!

"YOU CAN" assist with. Bill Shivers has graciously agreed to organize this effort, and needs to add you to the list of contributors and volunteers who stepped forward at the Sept. 8th General Meeting.

Can you paint? Hang shelves? Donate some furniture? Please call Bill and let him know what you CAN DO, he's coordinating all the support. Bill can be reached at (home) 727-864-1442 or (cell) 727-385-9942.

Feel free to drop by AWAPS new space, check out the plans for our new hang-out area, where you might find a cup of coffee or cold beverage, and hear a flying story or two, when you drop in.

### AWAPS New Office, Pilot Areas, & Community Education Center Renovations

- |                    |                          |                     |
|--------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|
| • I CAN:           | • I CAN:                 | • I CAN:            |
| • Donate Supplies  | • Assist w/ Painting     | • Make a donation   |
| • Donate a Service | • Assist w/ Construction | • Make a donation   |
| • Donate Furniture | • Assist w/ Decorating   | for a specific area |

#### COME JOIN THE FUN!

Please contact Bill Shivers @ 864-1442 (home) or 385-9942 (cell) for supply needs list, work schedules and any questions/ideas.

WITH YOUR HELP WE WILL ENHANCE  
ALBERT WHITTED AIRPORT

## Mark Your Calendar !

**Events Committee Meetings**  
Tuesdays 6:30 pm  
Sept. 14, 21, 28, Oct. 5, 12

**City Council Workshop/Task Force Recommendations**  
Tuesday Sept. 14, 2:00 pm

**City Council Mtg./Task Force Recommendations to Council**  
Thursday Sept. 16, 3:00 pm

**EAA Chapter 47 Meetings**  
Mondays 7:30 pm  
Sept. 20 and Oct. 18

**AWAPS Board Meetings**  
Wed. 7 pm, Sept. 15 and Oct. 20

**Grants Committee Meeting**  
Thursday Sept. 23, 6:30 pm

**AirFest Exhibit at Baywalk**  
Saturdays 1 pm  
Sept. 25 and Oct. 2

**Suncoast AirFest**  
Fri. Oct. 8 Media Day  
Sat. Oct. 9 AirFest 9am-5pm  
Sun. Oct. 10 AirFest 10am-5pm  
Tues. Oct. 12 Debriefing 6:30 pm

**Suncoast AirFest Young Eagle Day**  
Sat. Oct. 23 9:30 am

**Thank You to AirFest Volunteers Hangar Party**  
Sat. Oct. 23, 6:30 pm  
(Dinner, Music, Fun)

## Airshow Highlights

Also on tap for Suncoast AirFest is John Mohr. With more than 25,000 hours of flying, Mohr is one of the most talented and exciting pilots of the air show circuit today. He performs extremely difficult maneuvers in his meticulously restored Stearman biplane, an aircraft that not only weighs twice as much as today's acrobatic planes, but uses only half the horsepower.

Suncoast AirFest is fortunate to have Wayne Boggs in the role of Air Boss. Wayne has been employed with the FAA in the air traffic control profession for the past 28 years. He has worked as an air traffic controller at Chicago O'Hare Airport, taught ATC at the FAA Academy, and served as the Chief of Staff for the Air Traffic Systems Requirements Directorate in Washington, DC.

In 1996, Wayne was responsible for a team of controllers who provided air security for the Summer Olympics in Atlanta.

He is the Air Traffic Manager for the annual Lakeland Sun 'n Fun Fly-In and is currently serving as the Manager for Temporary Towers and Special Events for the Southeast United States.

Wayne has successfully performed air boss duties for over 20 years and teaches the Air Boss Course at the annual International Council of Airshows (ICAS) convention.

## A Tropical Destination

Whether you live in St. Petersburg or are flying in for a brief getaway, downtown has everything you need for a memorable evening or two. Fabulous restaurants, late night hot spots and an abundance of entertainment are awaiting you.

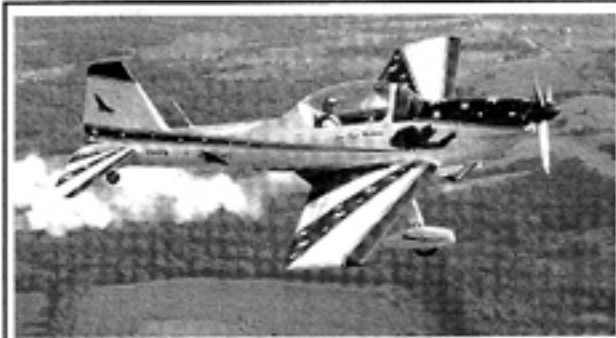
At the top of the list for many St. Petersburg residents is American Stage, located in downtown St. Pete just minutes from Whitted Airport. The Theater offers up a special "tropical" treat this fall as *Anna in the Tropics*, the 2003 Pulitzer Prize winner and Tony nominated play written by acclaimed author Nilo Cruz, makes its regional debut.

Set in 1929 in one of the last cigar factories in Ybor City, this lush, romantic drama revolves around a family of cigar workers and a celebrated new "lector" who sails to Tampa to read to the workers – entertaining and educating them – as they hand roll the cigars. But when he begins to read aloud from *Anna Karenina*, he unwittingly becomes a catalyst in the lives of his avid listeners for whom Tolstoy, the tropics, and the American dream prove a volatile combination. What begins as passionate and steamy evolves into a world of danger and betrayal in this struggle for identity in a new land.

*Anna in the Tropics* currently plays at American Stage from through October 17th and then moves to the Tampa Bay Performing Arts Center where it will play from October 21st through the 31st.

Call the American Stage box office at (727) 823-PLAY and receive 2 for 1 tickets for all shows in St. Petersburg when you mention the Albert Whitted *Flyer*.

continued from page 1



Jim "Fang" Maroney will fly his Super Chipmunk in an aerobatic demonstration sure to please Suncoast AirFest viewers.



Suncoast AirFest Air Boss Wayne G. Boggs has the primary responsibility for airshow operations on the active runway(s) and the surrounding wavered airspace.

## Food for Flying

Would you like to try a new taste in downtown dining? Café Alma, located less than one mile from Albert Whitted Airport, is a public gathering place fashioned to the European Café. The décor is a smart blend of traditional European cafés with modern sophisticated style and amenities that urban dwellers have come to expect.

Whether it is lunch with a business client, or late-night dining, Café Alma's (Spanish for "feed the soul") rustic Mediterranean fusion dishes are the lifeblood and driving force behind the popularity. Mediterranean cuisine has long been recognized as one of the healthiest and most versatile diets in the world, and chef Christian Brimer presents variety with zestful flavor.

At its heart, Café Alma celebrates the life, art, intellect, and commercial activity of the surrounding community. The young and old, the student and the professional alike will find a common ground at Café Alma. Enjoy a cappuccino at lunch, or cap off dinner with a selection from the freshly changing dessert menu.

Café Alma is located downstairs in the brick McNulty Station Building, 260 1st Avenue S. Open for lunch, dinner, and late night, serving a full dinner menu until 1am and full liquor bar until 2am. Also Saturday brunch. Dinner reservations are recommended. Call 727.502.5002 or [www.cafealma.com](http://www.cafealma.com). Look for Café Alma at Suncoast AirFest, October 9th and 10th.



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Do you have a message or advertisement you would like to present to our civic-minded readers? The AWAPS Flyer reaches over 1,300 households, and issues are given to incoming travelers at BayAir Flying Service and other downtown locations. To support the newsletter and AWAPS with an ad, please contact Mark Bogue at [markbogue@albertwhittedairport.org](mailto:markbogue@albertwhittedairport.org).

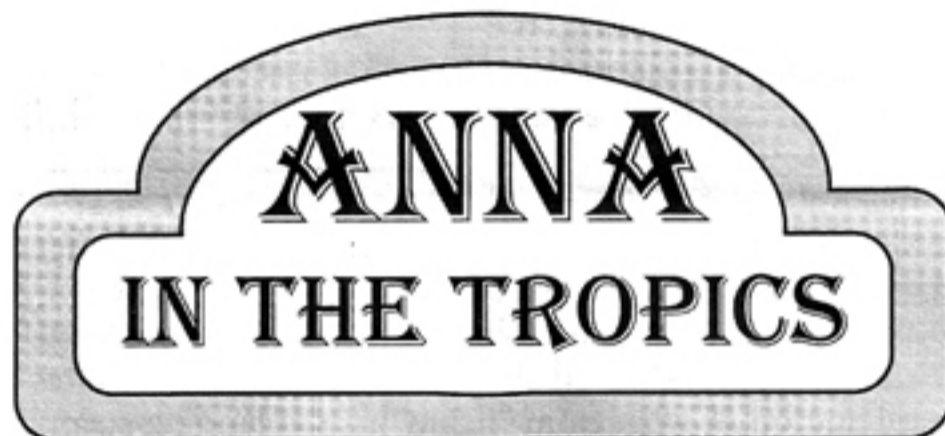
Business card ....\$25      Half page .....\$65

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10% discount for pre-paid multi-issue ads.



*American Stage kicks off  
the celebration of its*  
**26th Annual Mainstage Season**  
*with the 2003 Pulitzer Prize Winner  
and Tony Nominee*



*by Cuban-American playwright Nilo Cruz*

**September 10 - October 17**

*at American Stage located in  
Downtown St. Petersburg*

# # # # #

Come see the hottest play in Tampa Bay theater, *Anna In The Tropics*. Mention this ad when purchasing tickets to receive two tickets for the price of one.

# # # # #

**Call (727) 823-PLAY for information  
or to purchase your tickets.**

**[www.americanstage.org](http://www.americanstage.org)**

American Stage is located at 211 Third Street South,  
just across the street from Publix.

*“Terrific”*  
*“Charming”*  
*“Marvelous”*  
*“Divine”*

St. Petersburg Times

## Remember Whitted When...

A few years ago I was chatting with local aviation pioneer, Ed Hoffman down at the airport. He pointed to the middle of runway 6/24 and said, "I used to fish right about there."

To visualize how the downtown waterfront once looked, you have only to visit Lassing Park on Tampa Bay in the Old Southeast Neighborhood. This park shows today how different the downtown waterfront was a century ago.

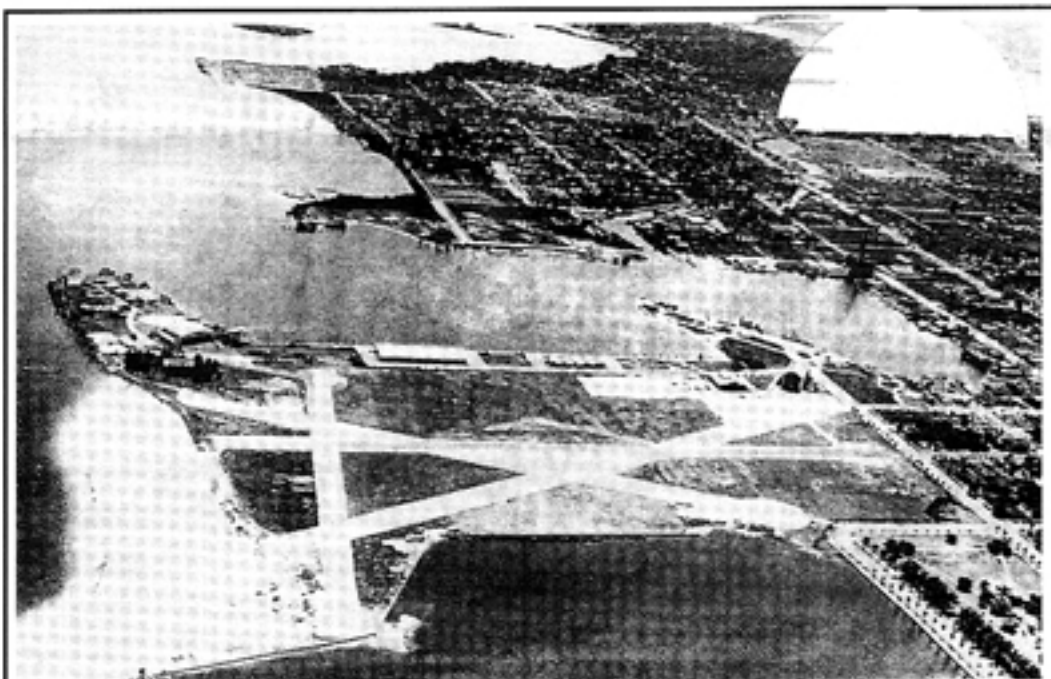
Whitted was one result of the 1920s dredging and landfill projects which turned shoals into channels and water into land. In less than a decade, a five mile stretch of natural

shoreline was converted to a "sea walled front yard." The dredging of Bayboro Harbor to a depth of nineteen feet in the channel and twenty-one feet in the turning basin produced the landfill that became Albert Whitted Airport and the United States Coast Guard Station. It went from "fishin' hole to landing strip."

William "Bill" Straub moved to the City in 1901 and championed the cause for public ownership and multiple uses of the downtown waterfront. The project was to take until the mid 1920s with much politicking to get the waterfront project completed. The airport, the Coast Guard station, the Municipal Marina, the Port, the parks, and later, Al Lang Field, the Bayfront Center/Mahaffey Theatre, the University of South Florida campus and even the public parking lots all nicely fit that vision of public owned and used lands.

In October 1928, the City Council authorized the construction of a flying field to be named in honor of hometown Navy aviator James Albert Whitted.

By Glenn Anderson



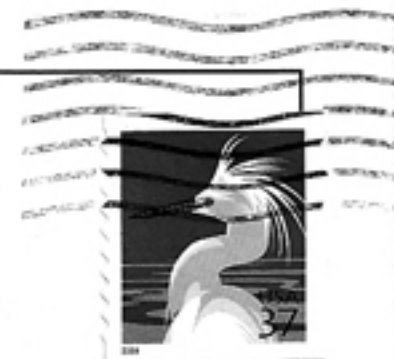
Whitted Field, circa 1937, with four, count'em four, paved runways! The USCG air station is on the southeast corner where it is today; the Goodyear blimp hangar can be seen in the southwest corner. The current legal boundaries of the airport are outlined; Fifth Avenue S.E. ran straight to the NW corner of the field, while today, the relocated road curves around the Bayfront Center.



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