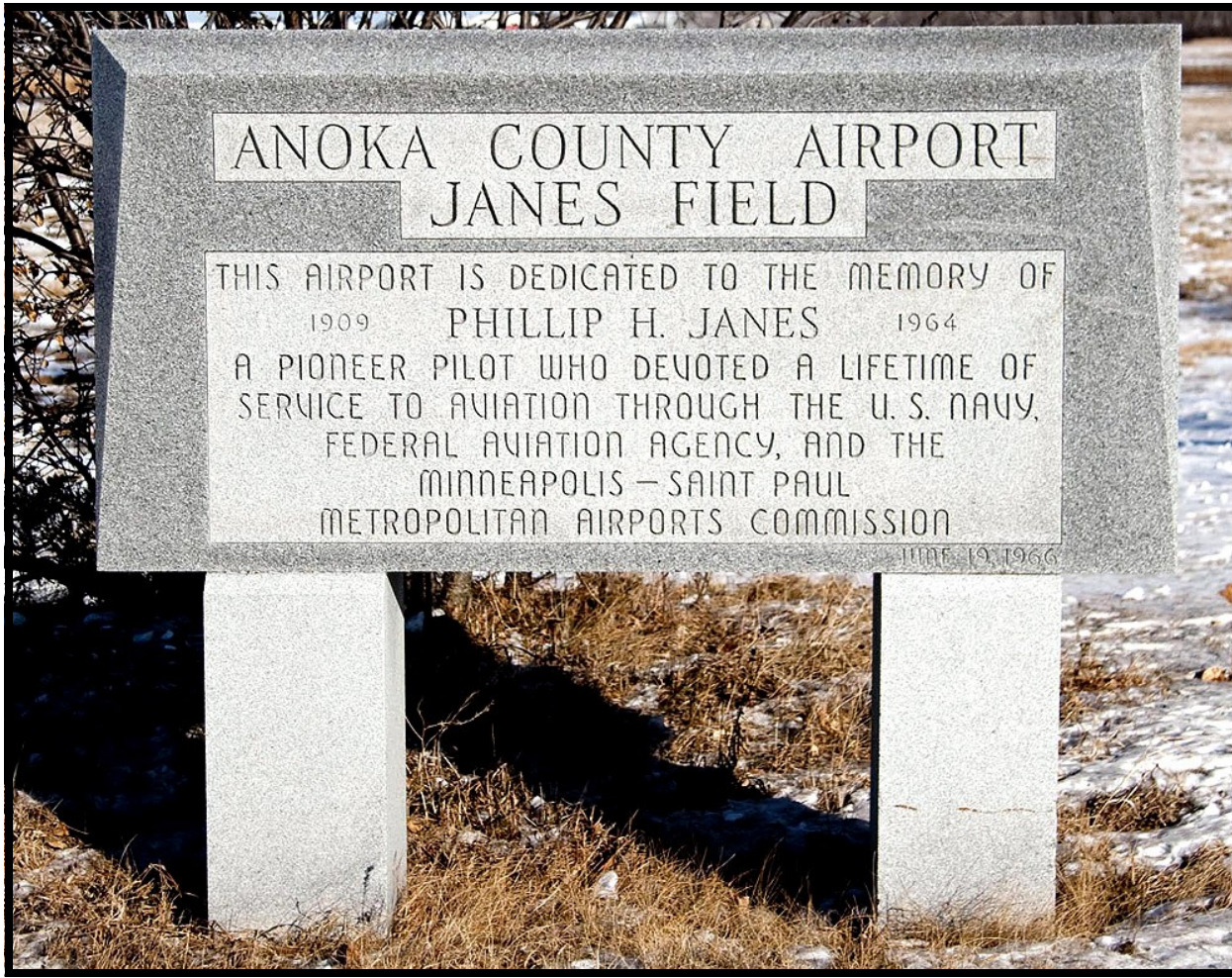


Janes Field

Connecting Blaine with the World



Monument to airport namesake, Phillip Janes, “one of the pioneer aviators of his time” and directly responsible for the promotion and development of the Anoka County–Blaine Airport. Dedicated on June 19, 1966.

A balloon is launched for Professor Ney’s Cosmic Ray Research, ca. 1950

“The University Airport has been established as a laboratory for observation, research, training and development and will benefit the University, the State of Minnesota and aviation in general.”

University Status Report, May, 1946



Snapshots in time (top) - Airport and surrounding area, ca. 1951
(bottom) Same area, ca. 1988

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University of MN Archives	Anoka County Historical Society
Waldo Anderson	Diane Mahon
Ann Marie Skiba Canis	Blaine Airport Promotion Group
Golden Wings Museum	Anoka County Airport

AIRPORT TIMELINE

- 1939** U of MN pilot training program established in response to the threat of a world war
- 1940-1941** University Airport established on 260 acres at US Highway 8 and County Road J on the farm of Anthony and Catherine Skiba for \$33,000
- 1941** University Flight Services established to provide charter air support for U of MN agricultural extension activities at outstate campuses in Crookston, Morris and Waseca
- 1941-1942** U of MN developed specifications for a Class 3 airport, submitted to the Civil Aeronautics Administration and War Projects Administration in Washington, DC
- 1943** Metropolitan Airports Commission (MAC) established
- 1946-1967** Flight Services tracked and retrieved balloons for Edward Ney’s Cosmic Ray Research Program, sponsored by NASA and the Office of Naval Research
- 1950** MAC and U of MN acquired 1,200 acres in southern Blaine—section 34, township 31, range 23—on land primarily owned by township farmers
- 1952** New Anoka County Airport opened
- 1959** Waldo Anderson hired as clerk of flight services, became director of flight training in ‘66, retired in ‘97
- 1966** Airport named “Janes Field” for Phillip Janes, director of the FAA’s District Office and later director of the reliever airports for the MAC
- 1976-1996** Charter planes served the University Hospital for its organ transplant program and on-call air ambulance service for the neo-natal unit
- 1989** University flight training program discontinued due to decreased interest
- 1996** U of MN Flight Services discontinued upon sale of University Hospital to Fairview and replaced by private charter companies at other airports
- 1996** University Airport purchased by businessman Greg Herrick—who established the Golden Wings Museum in the University hangar, featuring vintage planes
- 1997-2010** American Wings Air Museum started by Mike Langer and Len Burgers; became mobile museum in 2010
- 2007** Key Air—executive charter service—located at the airport, resulting in expansion of east-west runway 9-27
- 2010** Blaine Airport Promotion Group established to promote interest in flying, education activities and programs
- 2014** The airport supports more than 76,000 takeoffs and landings annually with 403 aircraft based on site

Blaine Historical Society
www.blainehistory.org

