



# Touching Ground

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AT THE DES MOINES INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

## Runway Extension Lands Award for DSM International

On April 1, at the monthly Aviation Board Meeting, John Cunningham, Director of the Iowa Concrete Paving Association, presented Aviation Director Bill Flannery with a plaque in recognition of the paving of runway 5-23 extension. The project extended the runway further southwest to 9,003 feet and moved the Northeast Protection Zone about 700 feet to reduce noise levels near the commercial/residential side of Fleur Drive. The project was built by Flynn Company, Inc. of Dubuque, Iowa, with engineering services provided by the City of Des Moines and voted as "Best Built in Iowa" during 2003 in the Commercial Airport category. Des Moines Mayor, Preston Daniels, recognized Flannery and the airport honor at the April 7<sup>th</sup> City Council Meeting.

The runway was operational as of December 17, 2002, but work continues on taxiways P and R with expectations to finish in June of this year. A total of 273,120 square



Mayor Daniels congratulates Bill Flannery and the DSM International Airport for receiving the award at the April 7<sup>th</sup> City Council Meeting. (l. to r. Daniels, Flannery and Cunningham)

yards of concrete will be used to complete the job. The paving awards are judged on ride, construction site safety, overall quality and other indicators of craftsmanship. Fifty-four paving projects were nominated this year from all over the state. ➔

## SARS Awareness

Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) is a virus that originated in China and is also prominent in Singapore, Hanoi and Vietnam. There have been numerous cases reported in Canada and to date approximately 170 cases have been reported in the U.S. spread over 30 states. SARS is spread by close contact with an infected person and transmission of exhaled droplets and/or bodily secretions are required to infect another. It presently has a four percent mortality rate, about the same as measles, and no U.S. deaths have been reported.

The World Health Organization (WHO) has advised travelers to cancel non-essential trips to SARS infected destinations. With help from the Federal Aviation Administration

(FAA) and the International Air Transportation Association (IATA), yellow health alert cards are being distributed at international ports of entry. Anyone showing symptoms of SARS is being isolated on flights, and screened at their destination. Other passengers are given the opportunity to wear masks and are given contact information if any symptoms develop in the future.

Planes are usually equipped with advanced air-filtration systems, which health experts say are effective in blocking transmissions of viruses. However, any airliner that has a confirmed SARS passenger on board will undergo a thorough disinfection process before being put back in service. ➔

## 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Flight

In commemoration of the anniversary, *Touching Ground* will highlight some of Iowa's contributions to aviation...

In 1898, Carl Bates, a 14-year-old from Clear Lake, built and flew the first man-carrying glider in Iowa.

Did you also know that Bishop and Susan Wright lived in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, from 1878 to 1881? Two of their sons, Orville and Wilbur, would later invent the world's first power-driven airplane at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina in 1903. ➔



Mayor Heck Ross inaugurating United Mainliner 230 (DC-4) at the DSM Airport on 4/24/1949. United Airlines has been providing air service at DSM International since 7/1/1927. United has provided local employment and air service to many Iowans within that time span to numerous destinations. We congratulate United Airlines on their 76<sup>th</sup> Anniversary here in DSM.

### Attention T-Hangar Tenants

In order to better serve you, please forward your email address to [GPHagan@dsmairport.com](mailto:GPHagan@dsmairport.com) or call at (515) 256-5001.

**Aviation Safety-Education Seminar**  
Wednesday, June 11, 2003 @ 7:00 p.m.  
DSM International Airport - Cloud Room  
FAA Central Administrator - Q & A Session  
Call 1-800-728-7250

## Increased Passenger Traffic

If you have flown from the Des Moines International Airport recently, you may have experienced crowded airplanes.

Passenger traffic at the Des Moines International Airport increased 9.22% during February 2003 compared to February 2002. This marks the 10<sup>th</sup> consecutive month of increased airport usage at Des Moines since May of 2002.

In February 2003, 134,382 passengers boarded scheduled flights at the airport, compared to 121,303 in 2002. The nearly 11% increase in our year-to-date total of passenger traffic at Des Moines compares with an increase of only 1% nationally.

The increase in passenger bookings out of Des Moines may be attributed to local airlines lowering fares to a more economical comparison of prices at the other airports.

Consider the following:

- The price of an average round trip from Des Moines is only \$50 more than the average fare from Omaha
- The price of an average round trip from Des Moines is only \$74 more than the average fare from Kansas City
- The number of scheduled daily departures from Des Moines has remained unchanged during the past year.

Central Iowa travelers have not experienced such small price differentials in a decade.

Another factor that may contribute to the increased passenger utilization in Des Moines is the Transportation Security Administration (TSA), who manages the security checkpoints leading to boarding gates. The TSA has done an excellent job of giving passengers peace of mind with their focus on safety and customer security. Americans, and specifically Iowans, are not intimidated to change travel plans due to threats of terrorism.➔

## South Cargo Building Update

Construction on the new cargo building just southwest of the recently expanded cargo apron is scheduled to begin in May with completion projected by the end of the year. The 27,500 square foot building is designed to accommodate two tenants and will house a cargo sort area, administrative offices, loading docks, storage area for ground and aircraft maintenance equipment and will access the new cargo apron. This will more than double the air cargo space with over 36 acres on site. The 2.4 million dollar project will be covered with revenue generated by a 15% Iowa Department of Transportation state grant and with revenue from future tenants.➔

### Airport Web Byte...

Since the beginning of this year through April 1, 2003, there have been 84,243 people visit our web site.

Be informed - sign on at  
[www.dsmaairport.com](http://www.dsmaairport.com).



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