

On this day in transportation history

October 23, 1910

Scott is first woman to make a public solo airplane flight

On **October 23, 1910** professional pilot Blanche S. Scott became the first woman to fly at a public event in America. She made her debut as a member of the Curtiss exhibition team at an air meet in Fort Wayne, IN, reaching an altitude of 12 feet.

Her exhibition flying earned her the nickname "Tomboy of the Air." She became an accomplished stunt pilot known for flying upside down and performing "death dives," from an altitude of 4,000 feet and suddenly pulling up only 200 feet from the ground. In 1911 she became the first woman in America to fly long distance when she flew 60 miles non-stop from Mineola, NY.

In 1912 Scott contracted to fly for Glenn Martin and became the first female test pilot when she flew Martin prototypes. In 1913 she joined the Ward exhibition team.

She retired from flying because she was bothered by the public's fervent interest in air crashes and an aviation industry which allowed no opportunity for women to become mechanics or engineers.



Blanche Scott in her biplane, circa 1910-1916