

HOME OF
RICH-TWINN OCTAGON HOUSE



BUILT IN 1849

The Newstead Historical Society

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The First Member's Memory

Akron's Early Aviator (Pre-Airport Days)

Gene Havens, a former Akron barber, owned the barber-shop on Main Street now occupied by Al Bassanello. Gene's son, Rennselaer Curtiss (Butch) Havens graduated from Akron High School in 1928. He lived at 103 John Street. Rennselaer began his aviation career in our town "barnstorming"* in a modified Curtiss-Robin airplane built in Buffalo. Rennselaer often used the field at the 5 corners, now occupied by the home of Mr. and Mrs. Jack Daugherty, to land in. This barnstorming preceded a 21 year piloting career as a Captain with American Airlines.

In a letter received by Mr. Eckerson, Rennselaer's son, Richard, recalls his childhood memories of Akron. Here is an excerpt from that letter ...

"Akron brings me pictures "in my mind" of pretty old houses, easy walk to and from town, a beautiful square, where we used to go and listen to the band up on the raised stand. I remember "hangin around" my grandfather's barber shop until he would give me pennies to spend next door at the candy store. The creek in back still stands out in my mind. Wonderful days, those."

Rennselaer Curtiss
(Butch) Havens with
his modified Curtiss-
Robin.
Date - circa 1930

*Barnstorming -- to tour rural areas giving excursions and exhibitions of stunt flying, using farm fields as landing strips.

