



Oklahoma Aeronautics Commission

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NEWS RELEASE

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OAC's Pinson Writes Book About Humorous, Serious Sides of Flying

OKLAHOMA CITY – Flying has both its ups and its downs. Lynn “Butch” Pinson can attest to that. The Tipton resident and airport inspector for the Oklahoma Aeronautics Commission has been flying the friendly skies for more than three decades now and has finally penned a book about his adventures.

The title of the book is “Going’ Up and Lookin’ Down: A Book About Flying, Airplanes, Pilots, Airports, Plane People, and Plane Stuff” and is a compilation of stories and anecdotes Pinson had personally seen, done or heard about during his 30 plus years as a general aviation pilot.

He said the idea to write the book started back in the early 1990s when he wrote weekly articles for the Frederick newspaper about some of the silly things he saw, did or heard about while serving as manager for the local airport.

“When I left there several years later, I had all of these articles and a lot of spare time on my hand. So I wrote a manuscript based on those stories, but I didn’t really know what to do with the manuscript once I finished it,” Pinson said.

The manuscript sat on a shelf for about seven years until his wife and daughters told him he should publish it.

Last summer, Pinson said he found a publisher in Nebraska that agreed to publish his book. He “dusted off” the original manuscript and immediately began updating many of the old articles he had written and adding several new ones. After three months and many hours of writing, reviewing and editing, Pinson’s book finally became a reality.

“I never intended to write a book like this, it just happened,” he said.

Pinson describes “Goin’ Up and Lookin’ Down” as a collection of stories he has picked up through the years, including some of the “stupid and silly things pilots do” such as an incident with an egotistical corporate pilot who learned a valuable lesson in humility. He also retells some of the more serious events he witnessed or was a part of, in particular the search for a personal friend who had experienced a tragic ending to his life.

Pinson said that he was surprised to learn that “Goin’ Up and Lookin’ Down” had already sold many copies at various sites such as Amazon.com and that retailers have already reordered additional copies. But despite the book’s early success, Pinson doesn’t foresee that accomplishment going to his head.

"I don't think I will be appearing on "Oprah" anytime soon," he joked.

If anything, Pinson hopes readers of his book will find it both interesting and entertaining. But more importantly, he hopes it will inspire others, young or old alike, to learn how to fly so that they, too, can experience the joy of flying.

"Flying has enabled me to see a lot of the country I would not have been able to see otherwise. I tell people that it's as if I was born with little airplanes flowing through my veins," Pinson said.

"Goin' Up and Lookin' Down" is available in paperback for \$18.95 on Amazon.com and at bookstores nationwide.

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The mission of the Oklahoma Aeronautics Commission is to promote aviation, which includes fostering the growth of the aerospace industry and ensuring that the needs of commerce and communities across the state are met by the state's 114 public airports that comprise the Oklahoma Airport System.