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A History Of Chicago's O'Hare Airport (Landmarks)



Synopsis

In 1942, a stretch of Illinois prairie that had served as a battleground and a railroad depot became the site of a major manufacturing plant, producing Douglas C-54 Skymasters for World War II. Less than twenty years later, that plot of land boasted the biggest and busiest airport in the world. Many of the millions who have since passed through it have likely only regarded it as a place between cities. But for people like Michael Branigan, who has spent years on its tarmac, they know that O'Hare is a city unto itself, with a fascinating history of gangsters and heroes, mayors, presidents and pilots.

Book Information

Series: Landmarks

Paperback: 160 pages

Publisher: The History Press (October 20, 2011)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1609494342

ISBN-13: 978-1609494346

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.3 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 6.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

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Customer Reviews

Ever pick up a book expecting something totally different, only to be pleasantly surprised by what layeth between the covers? This is that kind of book. If you are expecting some dry, boring manuscript full of facts and figures, this is not that book. Although this book does present that information, the author skillfully entwines those stats with interesting stories. Having grown up next to O'Hare in the late 50's, and lived there through the mid 80's, I can say that I thought I knew all that there was to know about ORD. I was happy to find a book that filled in a lot of the back ground information that I did not know. This book is written by an aviation enthusiast who is spot on with his facts which is quite refreshing. Nothing drives me crazier than someone who can't get their facts straight! Anyway, what makes this book really interesting is how the author incorporates a good deal

of history not just of ORD, but of the city of Chicago, and the surrounding communities. So, if you have an interest in the history of Chicago, with ORD being such a huge part of transforming Chicago into the economic and social powerhouse it is today, then this book is essential reading. But don't worry, you won't be bored. Like me, you will find it hard to put this book down. I finished this book off in three easy nights of reading. That's the other thing, this book is an "easy" read. It's entertaining, and interesting. I highly recommend this book. I look forward to any further revisions. I hope that at some point in the future the author can expand the book, and add some more photos. I would like to see a history of the airlines, and aircraft types that are known to have operated into ORD over the last six decades.

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