

FIRST AIRPLANE LANDED AT PINE CITY AIRPORT IN 1963

The first airplane to make a landing at the Pine City airport was in June, 1963. Representatives of the State Department of Aeronautics flew in to make the first of three inspections of the nearly completed project.

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Aeronautics department construction engineer, Carl Hansen and airport inspector, Ray Brown, were met as they touched down at 1:00 P.M. by Pine City Mayor Wm. Challeen, village clerk, Keith Selleck and Jack Ebensteiner, contractor who accompanied them during the inspection.

Work on the 2,600 by 200 foot landing strip was approved as far as it was completed. at the time of the inspection.

Construction costs, \$13,833, ~~---~~ were borne by the state. The money came from aircraft license taxes and aviation gas taxes and not out of the general fund Brown explained. The village furnished the land and assumed responsibility for future maintenance once the strip was turned over to them.

The north end of the field is an 80 x 350 foot taxiing and parking area for planes where flyers can lease tie-down space for their own planes and can construct their own hangers if they wish. Tie down stakes and a wind sock were installed by the village.

The airport project was originally spearheaded by the Commercial Club and then was taken hold of by the village.

The airport was an important step for Pine City in that it was and is a plus for them when trying to induce industry to locate here.

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