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MASONIC EDUCATION

### OUT OF THE HUMDRUM

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1. Masonic Airline? <http://www.airliners.net/photo/1237318/>  
One of the carrier planes of Planet Airways. Based in Orlando, Florida. The airline operates charter services within the U.S.A. and to the Caribbean.
2. When they first flew over the north and south poles, polar explorers and pioneer aviators Bros. Richard Byrd and Bernt Belchen dropped Masonic flags on each pole. In his later Antarctic expedition, Bro. Belchen tossed his Shrine Fez on the North Pole.
3. The Wright Brothers' historic flight covered a distance less than the length of today's Space Shuttle. Bros. Wilber and Orville Wright were both Freemasons.
4. NASA expert Clark McClelland claims to have seen an Extra Terrestrial from a UFO standing in the Space Shuttle payload during a space flight. This follows on the heels of Apollo 14 Astronaut Edgar Mitchell's earlier claim that aliens had made contact during one of their space flights. McClelland in a statement posted on his website last July 29, 2008 confirmed his claim. Clark McClelland is a retired NASA Spacecraft Operator (ScO) who during his 34 years career was responsible for ensuring the safety of numerous NASA missions, including the Apollo, Mercury and Space Shuttle space flights. Astronaut Edgar Mitchell was a lunar module pilot for Apollo 10 and Apollo 14 and he holds the record for the longest ever moonwalk (9 hours and 17 minutes.) Both McClelland and Mitchell are Freemasons and members of Venus Lodge No. 301, Florida and Artesia Lodge No. 28, Mexico, respectively.
5. The initiative to develop La Guardia Airport in New York City began with a verbal outburst of its Mayor and Bro. Fiorello LaGuardia upon the arrival of his TWA flight at Newark, N.J., as his ticket said New York. He demanded to be taken back to New York and ordered the plane to be flown to an airport in Brooklyn. Not long after, the city voted to build a new airport in Bro. La Guardia's name. Opened in 1939, and in 1960 La Guardia was voted the "greatest airport in the world" by the worldwide aviation community.
6. The Pullman loaf, sometimes called "Sliced Bread" or sandwich loaf, was derived from a resemblance between the loaf and Pullman railway sleeping car invented by Bro. George M. Pullman of Renovation Lodge No. 97, N.Y.
7. The Brotherhood of Railroad Signalmen of America, organized in 1901, followed their fraternal Order from the Freemasons. Their lodge rooms were laid out almost identical to a Masonic lodge. A candidate obligated himself "to be considerate to the widows and orphans...and that I will always be an earnest advocate to create an active interest in each other's welfare. And....will always extend my right hand to aid a brother, and that I will defend his interest." (Taken from the Ritual of the Brotherhood of Signalmen of America, 1931).
8. Bro. Thomas Raffles, known as the founder of Singapore, was born aboard the ship named "Ann" in 1781 off the Coast of Jamaica. Bro. Raffles is one of the most famous Britons who expanded the British Empire.
9. The tradition of naming ships after U.S. presidents began when shipping magnate Bro. Robert Dollar purchased seven Presidents ship from the U.S. government and converted them to commercial use under the name of Dollar Lines. Bro. Dollar was born in Scotland and still ranks as one of Scotland's fifty historically wealthiest men. Bro. Dollar founded a Masonic Lodge in Bracebridge, Ontario, Canada. The death of Bro. Dollar in 1932, coupled with the great depression and the Pacific War resulted in Dollar Lines's bankruptcy and in 1937 under the control of Bro. Dollar's sons, the company was sold to the U.S. government, subsequently emerging as American President Lines (APL).