Development of Aviation in LA.

Topic of Meet

J. W. Meyers, state airport engineer, of Baton Rouge, guest speaker at the Rotary luncheon Thursday, spoke on the “Development of Aviation in Louisiana.”

Mr. Meyers stated that as far back as 1872 a Dr. Charles McDermott, who was residing in Louisiana was granted a patent for “improvement in an apparatus for navigation in the air.” In 1910 the first flight in Louisiana was made at New Orleans on Mardi Gras day by Louis Taulhan, he stated.

Mr. Meyers related that until 1930 aviation was largely in the pioneering stage but in the ’30s came much real development. He said that Barksdale Field was built and in 1934 the New Orleans airport was opened which was one of the finest in the country at that time. He reported that from then until 1940, the number of airports in Louisiana gradually grew to 23.

Mr. Meyers concluded by citing some of the major developments in aviation that took place during the last war and spoke of the improvements to be looked for in the future, both in passenger and freight service.

Visiting Rotarians were L. C. Wellsworth of Baton Rouge, Gene Fortier of New Iberia and Wayne E. Green of New Orleans.