

## **Inventory to Business and Commerce in the Township of Fairfield (formerly Caldwell Township until 1963) and Surrounding Area Businesses, 1800s - present**

### **Descriptive Summary**

**Title:** Inventory to Business and Commerce in the Township of Fairfield (formerly Caldwell Township until 1963) and Surrounding Area Businesses, 1800s - present

**Dates:** 1800s - present

**Quantity:** 2 linear ft. (4 manuscript boxes)

**Language:** English

**Repository:** Fairfield Free Public Library. Local History Archive.

### **History of the Businesses of Township of Fairfield**

#### **Farming and Industry**

The majority of families in Fairfield in the 1890s were occupied in farming, e.g. milk retailers, farms, vegetable producers, poultry and eggs, beekeepers, corn, and Big Piece Hay. However, there was a blacksmith shop owned by Aaron Kayhart where Route 46 crosses Two Bridges Road and around 1900, they built a larger shop with a barroom attached, which was the first saloon within two miles of the Fairfield Reformed Church. Two other blacksmith shops were operated by Leonard Zeliff (Hollywood Avenue and Fairfield Road), Theodore Kanouse (Big Piece Road), and Jim Lawrence (Greenbrook Road). Thomas Sindle owned a grist and saw mill on Greenbrook Road. Until around 1900, Warren Doremus operated a wood yard on Sand Road. Two retail butchers and Sam Dey's store had their own ice houses. There were four hat factories (known as buckeyes) in operation between approximately 1887 and 1909: Leonard Zeliff (corner of Fairfield Road and Hollywood Avenue), Harry Zeek on Fairfield Road, Wilard Pier on Pier Lane, and George Winans on Hollywood Avenue. In the 1890s, there was a post office and Samuel Dey was the postmaster, and also operated a general store, located on the southeast side of Little Falls Road. The store had groceries, a coffee grinder, dried fruits and vegetables, a cracker barrel, a sugar barrel and a molasses barrel, rope and farm tools, lanterns, pails, traps, and a candy counter. Chris Seugling was a cattle dealer and butcher in town. Two retail butchers included Ernest Kent on Pier Lane and Thomas Archibald Stagg on Fairfield Road (started in 1903). Daniel C. Cable was a veterinarian (Big Piece Road). In 1904, Walter Lindsley of Caldwell organized the Caldwell National Bank.

#### **Fairfield Industrial Commission**

Formed in 1963. Goal was to enhance and promote the image of Fairfield, to assist and represent the business community and encourage people to locate their enterprises in Fairfield.

#### **Airport**

The Curtiss-Wright airport was originally the sight of Fairfield Dairy Company, a dairy farm owned by Stephen Francisco. Around 1920, it was discovered during state inspections that portions of the dairy herd had tuberculosis and the farm was put up for sale. In 1925, a portion of this land was used to make the Essex Airport and in 1928, the Essex Airport and much for the farmland was purchased by Curtiss Aeroplane and Motor Company Inc. and the airport was renamed to The Curtiss-Essex Airport. At the same time, Curtiss Aeroplane and Motor Company Inc. merged with Wright Aeronautical Corporation (originated from the Wright Brothers) to

form the Curtiss-Wright Aeronautical Corporation. In 1933, the airport was renamed to the Curtiss-Wright Airport. Based on growing needs for propellers during WWII, the Curtiss-Wright Corporation began the Caldwell Curtiss-Wright Propeller Division in 1940, which included a new plant, larger runways, and additional sites in Clifton, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Indiana. On September 8, 1975, the Essex County Improvement Authority acquired the Essex County Airport (CDW) from Curtiss-Wright Corporation. The Airport is located on Passaic Avenue in the Township of Fairfield, NJ. Today the airport is a general aviation airport and is comprised of two hundred and seventy eight acres of property. It has two main runways and offers Fixed Based Operations, tie-downs, T-hangars, aircraft avionics and maintenance and flight school training.

More information:

DeBaun, Roscoe W. *Country Life in Fairfield, New Jersey, from 1887-1909*. (1957) (Essex County, N.J.) 102 pages.

Poekel, Charles A. Jr. *West Essex, Essex Fells, Fairfield, North Caldwell and Roseland* (Images of America: New Jersey) (1999). Arcadia Publishing. 128 pages.

## **Subjects**

Curtiss-Wright

Essex County Airport

Fairfield Diary, The

Fairfield Industrial Commission

## **Detailed Description of the Records/Container List**

### **Box1**

Box Folder

- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| 1 | 1 | <b>The Caldwell Propeller Division of the Curtiss-Wright Aeronautical Corporation (1940-1983) (2 copies)</b><br><br>Prepared for Dr. Pershey, History Professor of the New Jersey Institute of Technology by William E. Parr, April 17, 1983 |
| 1 | 2 | <b>Essex County Airport Improvement Program Environmental Assessment</b><br>Submitted to the Essex County Improvement Authority by Louis Berger & Associates, Inc. June 1992, pages 1-78   |
| 1 | 3 | <b>Final Report – Caldwell Airport (2 Copies)</b><br><br>By Mayor’s [Of Fairfield] Advisory Committee, June 11, 1974.<br>D. Folenta, A. Garland, R. Oechslin, A. Shechtman   |

1 4 **Why is Fairfield Upset About The Essex County Improvement Authority's Acquisition of Caldwell Wright Airport?**

By Mayor's [Of Fairfield] Advisory Committee, June 16, 1975.

1 5 **Essex County Airport [Formerly Curtiss-Wright] Aerial Photograph December, 1940**

Office original. A Robert Yarnall Richie Photograph. No. 53.

**Box 2**

Box Folder

2 1 **Essex County Airport [Formerly Curtiss-Wright] Newspaper Clippings 1964-1972**

Pilot Hurt at Airshow, 6/1/1964  
 Airport Women Pilots, 6/11/1964  
 X-19 Makes Successful First Flight, 7/2/1964  
 Fatal Crashes, 11/16/1965, 11/19/1964  
 Student Pilot, 42 Solos, Killed in Crash, 4/16/1965  
 W. Essex Decry Airport Expansion, 4/5/1965  
 Fairfielders Protest Airport Operations, 4/22/1965  
 Curtiss-Wright Company May Sue Fairfield Over Airport Laws, 7/20/1965  
 This Airport Needs Attention, 11/18/1965  
 Safety Concerns, 6/3/1966  
 Fairfield Officials Ask Close of Crash-Ridden Local Airport, 6/7/1966  
 Mayer Szabo Asks Airport Shutdown, 6/9/1966  
 FAA OK's Safety At Caldwell Airport, 8/4/1966  
 No Jets at Airport, 9/21/1967  
 They're Flying High in Fairfield, 5/19/1968  
 Plane Crashes, 8/1/1968  
 A Look at Fairfield From the Air [Photo], 8/21/1969  
 Airport Zoning, 7/1/1971  
 County Could Take Our Airport, 7/12/1972  
 Fairfield Considers Buying Airport, 8/10/1972  
 Airport for Sale \$6.5 Million, 10/26/1972  
 Airport Study, 10/24/1972

2 2 **Essex County Airport [Formerly Curtiss-Wright] Newspaper Clippings 1973-1982**

Airport Studies, 12/13/1973, 1/11/1973, and 6/22/1973, 8/23/1973  
 New Operational Contract, 4/12/1973  
 Impact on Community, 10/11/1973  
 Industrial Proposal (Close Airport), 9/6/1973  
 Fairfield to Buy Airport, 8/1/1973

Cluster Housing Proposed, 5/17/1974  
Airport Proposal Vocational School, 4/25/1974  
Stopping County from Owning Airport, 6/25/1974  
Airport Lawsuit, 8/28/1974  
\$3.5 Million Grant to Buy Airport, 6/27/1974  
Home Rule vs. Essex County, 7/11/1974  
Curtiss-Wright Tells Its Plan for Airport, 7/11/1974  
Fairfield Denounces ECIA Airport Tactics, 5/20/1975  
Airport Opponents 'Mislead' ECIA Says, 12/11/1975  
ECIA Suit Angers Mayors, 5/2/1975  
ECIA Demands Fairfield Post Bond, 4/30/1975  
Fairfield Signs Pact on Airport Expansion Plan, 4/27/1976  
Essex Airport "Reacquired," 12/27/1976  
Fairfield Airs Dissatisfactions, 8/14/1977  
Agency Rejects Shift of Fairfield Runways, 10/24/1978  
Airport Repaving Runway, 6/19/1978  
Airport Master Plan Approved, 8/5/1978  
Fairfield Officials Frown at Master Plan, 8/8/1978  
Flights Increasing at Fairfield Airport, 10/11/1978  
Flashback of Curtiss Propeller Division 40 Years Ago, 10/9/1980  
\$1 Spent on Airport Fix-Up, 11/5/1980  
Runway Realignment Favored for Airport, 12/11/1980  
Fairfield May Sue on Airport, 1/15/1981  
ECIA Hopes to Lease Airport Acreage, 5/21/1981  
Firm Sues Authority at Airport, 5/5/1981  
Facelift Well Underway at Essex County Airport, 7/23/1981  
ECIA to Market Land, 8/6/1981  
Fairfield Air Collisions Kill 2, 9/1/1982

2      3      **Essex County Airport [Formerly Curtiss-Wright] Newspaper Clippings  
1992-2009**

Residents Want to Close Airport, 9/17/1992  
Planes on Display, 8/13/1992  
Hostile to Airport Expansion, 7/23/1992  
Anti-Airport Rally, 8/27/1992  
Renovated Hanger, 9/2/1993  
Airport Noise, 7/1/1993  
Airport Upgrade, 8/15/1996  
Kennedy Remembered, 8/6/1999  
Kennedy's Effect in One Small Town, 10/28/1999  
The History of Fairfield's Essex County Airport, 3/22/2007  
Essex Co. Airport Has a Lofty Past, 6/21/2009

**Box 3**

Box Folder

3 1 **Fairfield Overview Business Articles**

***Fairfield, New Jersey Business Magazine, September 1976***

By Jacqueline Juster, Managing Editor

Pages 41-58

***Fairfield, The Star Ledger, Friday, January 16, 2004***

by Andrea Frucci, Marketing Staff

**Fairfield Best-Kept Secret, The Star Ledger, Saturday, June 7, 2008**

**Fairfield, Environs Evolve Into Big Industrial Center**

Daily Record, Morris County, NJ, August 1996

**“Fairfield,” Architectural Sampler of Northwest Essex, Arts Council of Northwest Essex**

3 2 **Fairfield Directories**

**Industrial Directory of Fairfield, NJ, 1970 (?)**

Presented by the Fairfield Industrial Commission

“Recognizing the service performed by commerce and industry to the community, the Fairfield Industrial Commission authorized the publication of this directory in response to the demonstrated need for an accurate and up-to-date compilation of the data contained herein. The purpose of this new revised edition is to identify the members of the commercial and industrial family of Fairfield and to provide a ready-reference for reliable sources of supply within this community.”

**Industry and Commerce of Fairfield, NJ, 1974, with additions, corrections, and deletions dated July 1, 1976 (2 copies)**

Presented by the Fairfield Industrial Commission

A ready reference of the members of commercial and industrial businesses and indicates the economic growth of the Fairfield of community.

**“Set your SITE in Caldwell Township” (circa 1962) 2 copies**

Published by the Industrial Commission of Caldwell Township

**Business Directory Township of Fairfield, NJ 1986 Edition**

Presented by the Mayor and Council and Industrial Commission

Includes a listing of the Township’s manufacturing, service, commercial and professional enterprises. Classified listing includes the name of the firm, address, telephone number, name of principal officer at address listed and primary product

and/or service. A street map of Fairfield is provided at the back, as well as demographic information related to the township.

**Fairfield Telephone Directory, July 1995 – June 1996**

Presented by the Fairfield Industrial Commission, members: Michael Carbonara, Joseph Ettl, Joseph Catenaro, Daniel Cohen, Anthony Pio Costa, Joseph Puzo, Councilman Allan Smallheer, Judith A. Niedz.

Includes a listing of the township's manufacturing, commercial, service, and professional enterprises, and for the first time, it includes a listing of all Fairfield residents.

**Fairfield Rotary Club Directory, 1979**

This is the second complete directory of Fairfield published by the Rotary Club of Fairfield.

3      3      **Fairfield Business Newspaper clippings, Letters, Receipts**

Regarding:

American Way Mall

Archive Systems

Beckwith Plumbing and Heating

Caldwell Trucking

Camelot Communications

Chatterly Elegant Desserts

Country Corner Store

Country Pet Shop (Lebeda)

Dey Dairy (Fairfield Road)

ElectroNucleonics Inc.

Fairfield Dairy

Fairfield Family Medicine, Dr. Joseph and Linda Liotti

Fairfield Farms

Fairfield Furniture Store

Fairfield Grocery (Pier Lane, Stanley and Lester Sindle)

Fairfield Home and Garden Center

Farmer Joe's Market

Fairfield Lodge

Fairfield National Bank

International Controls Corp.

Jose Tejas (Grand opening invitation, May 23, 1996)

Madison Corporate Campus (2 Photos)

Mita (opened 1992)

Munkacsy Mineral Water Corp. and Fountains/Munkacsy Natural Mineral Water (post card)

Pier Lane Nurseries

Plains Pharmacy

Saltwater Café  
Spa Lady  
Target of Fairfield  
Teamster's Diner  
Transworld Delivery Association, Floral Delivery  
Vince's Family Market

**Box 4**

Box Folder

4 1 **Fairfield Dairy Register 1894 – 1906 (Original)**  
**Fairfield Dairy Register 1907-1924 (Original)**

Stephen (“Dutch”) Francisco owned the ground where the current Essex County Airport is located. A road leading to his home was named Dutch Lane and when the house moved it became New Dutch Lane, which still exists today. The land was from Native Americans. According to DeBaun in *Country Life in Fairfield* (1957), “the Francisco family sold their acreage around their homestead, their deed was a fragile old piece of bark written in Dutch and signed with Indian Crosses. The land had simply been handed down from father to son for two centuries without a formal conveyance.” The Fairfield Dairy was considered one of the biggest and finest of dairies in the world at that time. There were 800 cows, 700 acres of ground, barns, a bottling plant, and 38 retail delivery routes from their Montclair delivery depot. More information can be found in Roscoe W. DeBaun’s *Country Life in Fairfield*.