

Volume 18

Number 004

Amelia Earhart - II

Lead: Her name was famous around the world and not just for her epic flying accomplishments. She was a consummate believer that women had an equal place with men, and then over the Pacific in 1937 Amelia Earhart was lost.

Intro.: *A Moment in Time* with Dan Roberts.

Content: Though she grew up in a more conventional Victorian era, Earhart was in spirit a child of the twentieth century. A strong promoter of women's rights, from childhood she had participated in those arenas

usually reserved for boys and then men. She believed that notions of retiring femininity were outdated and everything she did paved the way for women to follow: athletically, professionally, and personally. Her position on the faculty of Purdue University, advising on aeronautics and women's career opportunities, allowed her to influence a new generation of women leaders.

Earhart's husband, George Putnam, published her books and encouraged her exploits including the last, a flight around the world, not the first, but it would have been the longest. In 1936 Putnam helped her buy a new Lockheed Electra, a high-powered twin-engine tail-dragger,

and she began to prepare for her global flight. She chose as her navigator Fred Noonan, formerly of Pan Am Airway, and they departed Miami June 1, 1937.

She worked her way south and then across Africa and Southeast Asia arriving a month later in New Guinea. All that remained was the 7000 mile stretch across the Pacific. It would be the fatal stretch. They took off on July 2nd headed for Howland Island, 2500 miles away. Unfortunately, they were using substandard navigation equipment and neither had extensive experience in radio navigation. They disappeared and after an exhaustive search were given up for lost. To this day Amelia

Earhart has captured the fascination of millions, particularly women, having helped define the meaning of pioneer in aviation and in life. Research assistance by Emma Mulrine from Richmond, Virginia this is Dan Roberts.

Resources

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