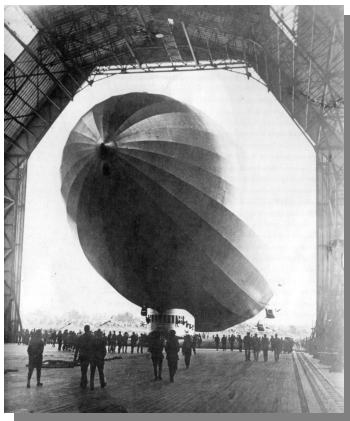


New Lecture Topic: "Ballooning, Blimps & the Great Airships"

This lecture and visual presentation covers three types of aircraft used in man's early effort to maintain flight. We begin with the 1783 French balloonists and continue on with the Civil War ballooning program and the Aeronautical Division of the Union Army. Michigan's own General Custer used the balloon for observing the Confederates. After the Civil War, ballooning became an exhibition tool serving the circus and the Michigan County Fair circuit.



The history of blimps and rigid airships, here in America, begins in the early 1900's. Our presentation addresses the early Army and Navy blimps of WWI and WWII, plus the 1920's classic Gordon Bennet Balloon races and the WJR Radio balloon of that era. The rigid airship segment shows the making of the 3 great airships, the crews at work and the interiors of these giant 850 foot dirigibles.

Henry Ford also had an interest in this aviation phenomenon. Several years of research and a collection of over 600 photos plus many hours of historic movie footage makes this an outstanding presentation. Call Al or Dave Eicher for more information!



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