The Incredible Aviation
History of the North Valley

Brian Baldridge
Chico Air Museum
President
Thaddeus Kerns
Chico’s Boy Pilot
1909-1914
The Friesley Falcon
First Flight April 21, 1921
Flew the Marysville Merchants, American Legion Baseball team to Woodland.
August 7, 1921
Meal Ticket Drops in San Francisco
October 1921,
Patrick Field 1930’s
Dedication of Chico Municipal Airport 1935
Boeing Model 40.
Chico Army Airfield 1941-1945
A CAMERA TRIP THROUGH

CHICO ARMY AIR FIELD
CHICO, CALIFORNIA
The Venerable Consolidated-Vultee BT-13
Bell P-63 Aircobras's over Chico
Lockheed P-38 Lightning's over Chico
Titan 1 Missile Base
Massive Underground Complex
First U.S. Airline Hijacking Attempt
First U.S. Airline Hijacking Attempt

**Date:** July 31, 1961  
**Flight Info:** A Pacific Air Lines DC-3 bound from Chico, Calif., to San Francisco.

**The Story:** A 40-year-old oil worker, Bruce Britt was severely inebriated when he rushed onto the plane at Chico Municipal Airport. When an airline employee politely asked him for his ticket, he screamed “This is my ticket!” and shot the unfortunate man in the back. Britt then went to the cockpit and asked to be flown to Smackover, Ark., where he hoped to reconcile with his estranged wife. Informed that the DC-3 could not move until the cockpit door was shut, Britt became irate and shot the captain in the head. The co-pilot bravely knocked away the gun and pinned the blotto hijacker to the ground.

**The Upshot:** Both shooting victims survived, though the captain was blinded for life. Britt was sentenced to 42 years in prison.
Air Force Cambridge Laboratory High Altitude Research Projects.
HUBAR
Highest Unmanned Balloon Altitude Record

• Launched from Chico, October 27, 1972
• 47.8 million cubic ft.
• 170,000 feet altitude
• Guinness Book record
Project Stargazer
Joe Kittinger
March 4, 1962
Willows
Birthplace of Aerial Firefighting
Pioneer Air
Tanker Pilot
Frank Prentice
Thank You!