

HISTORY CENTER

SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY

Up, Up, and Away!



Photo by Frank C. Aston from Terrace Hill

First SLO Aeroplane Flight, July 4th 1910

For a July 4th 1910 celebration of Independence Day, Hillary Beachy the older brother and mentor of the famed aviator Lincon J. Beachy made the first aeroplane flight over San Luis Obispo in what appears to be a Gill-Dosh Curtiss type biplane. An improvised airfield was made at the end of Higuera Street near the cemetery and ball park field. The 600 pound plane had been shipped in and assembled onsite by Beachy and his assistant Frank Eton.

*According to the Morning Tribune on the day:
The long-looked-for flight of an aeroplane in this city was not what it was expected to happen, but the aviator got off the ground to a height of 15-20 feet and after flying along for 500 feet came back to earth again. Something broke and after some time was spent, in which a bystander made all kinds of offers to take a chance at the machine, Beachy took a second chance and gave up the attempt. The conditions of the*

ground on the field opposite the cemetery were against him and the stubble even punctured the tires of the wheels on the flying machine. The people gathered there by the thousands. After entering the ball park and finding the machine was further down the line they walked to the place and claimed the hill nearby or lined themselves along the road. As the aviator flew the required distance for straight away flight he has earned his money on the first condition of his contract, but will not get any \$1500.

It seems Frank C. Aston's photo of the fight recorded a higher flight altitude than just 15-20 feet! I think Beachy was gipped of his award and is due compensation for the effort. Perhaps the SLO City Council would like to pay for airport plaque in his honour to record the momentous event?

By Carl Calloway, San Luis Obispo native and adjunct professor of Art History at Austin Community College. You can read his blog of San Luis Obispo Folklore [here](#).

BEACHY'S FLIGHT

Gets Off the Earth
But Soon Comes
Back

The long looked for flight of an aeraplane in this city was not what was expected to happen, but the aviator got off the ground to a height of 15 or 20 feet and after flying along for 500 feet came back to earth again. Something broke and after some time was spent, in which a bystander made all kinds of offers to take a chance at the machine Beachy took a second chance and he gave up the attempt. The conditions of the ground on the field oppsite the cemetery were against him and the stubble even punctured the tires of the wheels on the flying machine. The people gathered there by thousands. After entering the ball park and finding the machine was further down the line they walked to the place and climbed the hill nearby or lined themselves along the road. As the aviator flew the required distance for straight away flight he has earned his money on the first condition of his contract, but will not get any \$1500.

The Morning Tribune tells the tale.

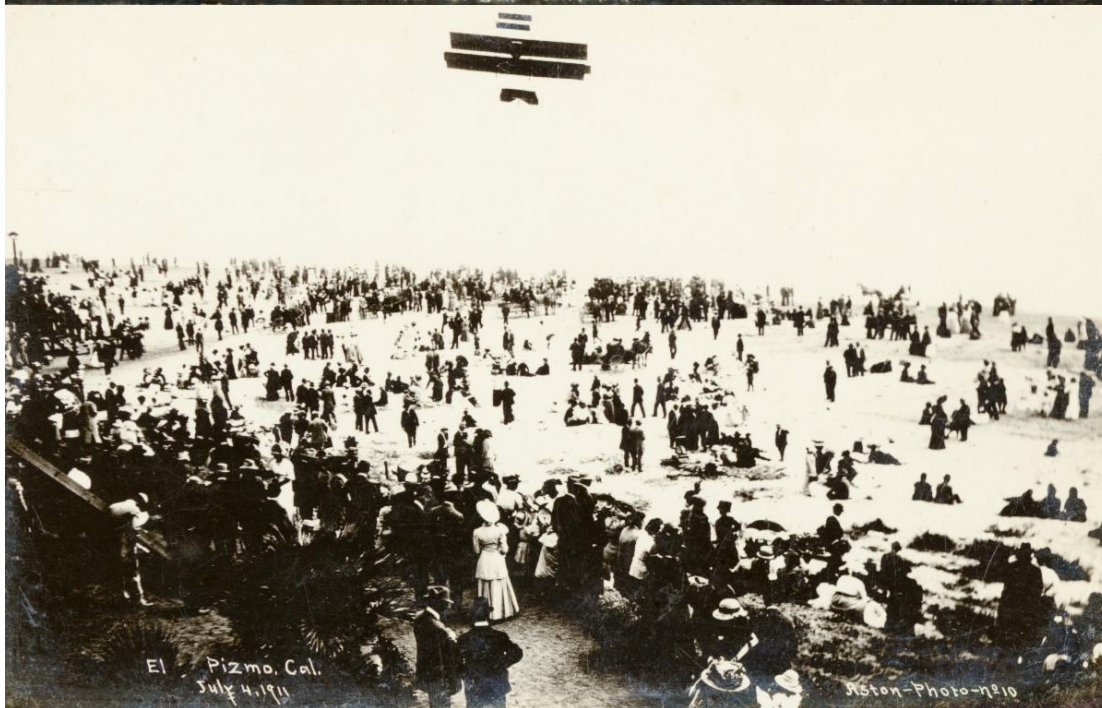
The feat was repeated with more success - and more photographs - the following year at Pismo Beach by Fred Wiseman. Hundreds of people came from all over the county - and Monterey and Santa Barbara counties as well - to view the spectacle.





El Pismo, Cal. - July 4, 1911

Aston-Photo-1812



El Pismo, Cal.
July 4, 1911

Aston-Photo-1810



The Dallidet Family enjoy their garden with some, ahem, minor alterations

Dallidet Gardens Open

Have you ever seen a Mongolian Sunflower? Or a 130-year old Avocado tree? Are you looking for some outdoor tranquility? Then you should visit the Dallidet Gardens.

Every Sunday throughout July, the gardens will be open from 11 am to 3 pm. The State's [guidelines for Outdoor Museums](#) will be strictly followed, so please bring your mask.

1185 Pacific Street, San Luis Obispo

Tour the Dallidet Adobe

Even as we open the Gardens, the house is still

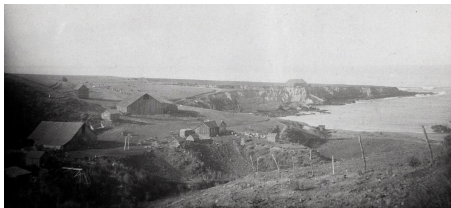
closed for now. That doesn't mean you can't tour the Adobe: we're giving virtual tours every Thursday at 1:00 pm.

The Dallidet family lived in San Luis Obispo from the 1850s through the 1950s. Hear their stories while visiting the family home.

Please register by noon on Thursday, and we will email you a Zoom invitation to join that week's tour.



[Click here for more information or to register](#)



State Parks Story Map

California State Parks have created a story map of 18th and 19th century settlement in what is now Montana de Oro State Park. Whether you've taken a hike recently or not, this is a fun hike through the past.

[Check it out here.](#)

Looking for more to do?

- Follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), or [Instagram](#). With posts like Mystery Monday and Throwback Thursday, we'll be sharing photos from our collection.
- Take a [virtual walking tour](#) of historic San Luis Obispo. These video series feature short vignettes about significant local landmarks.

If you have any ideas of content you'd like to see, share it with us! And if you enjoy what we share with you, and if you are able to, would you please consider [supporting us](#)?

Thank you for being a part of our community. Everybody stay healthy and safe.

Sincerely,

Thomas Kessler
Executive Director

History Center of San Luis Obispo County

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