Read a Gripping History of the Dillon Companies Flight Department by Michael W. Sims

Flyer Mike Chronicles the Aviation Journey from Humble Beginnings to Global Influence

Hutchinson, Kansas Dec 1, 2025 (Issuewire.com) - The Dillon Companies Flight Department by Michael W. Sims takes readers on an extraordinary journey through aviation history, chronicling the rise of a small flight department of The Dillon Companies to a global enterprise and its eventual merger with The Kroger Co.

The Dillon Companies Flight Department epitomized innovation and ambition from its inception post-WWII. The author dives deep into the archives, bringing a story of courage, adventure, and resilience to life. The book contains captivating photos and first-hand accounts. It provides an intimate look at the evolution of a flight department that not only served a growing retail empire but also redefined the role of corporate aviation.

The book traces the department's roots back to 1948, highlighting pivotal moments such as the first air cargo of fresh fruits and berries that landed in Hutchinson, Kansas, during the Kansas Flying Farmers Convention.

Under the visionary leadership of Ray E. "Ace" Dillon Jr., a WWII veteran and aviation pioneer, the Dillon Companies leveraged aviation to propel their business forward, becoming a testament to the power of strategic innovation. The book also pays tribute to the unsung heroes—engineers, mechanics, and staff—whose dedication ensured the safety and success of every flight.

The Dillon Companies Flight Department is a tribute to the visionaries who saw beyond the horizon and dared to fly. It celebrates the spirit of innovation and the legacy of a family whose journey inspired a new era in business aviation. The book is available for purchase on Amazon.

About the Author

Michael W. Sims was born in Hutchinson, Kansas, in March 1943. A graduate of Hutchinson High School, he pursued college credits at Hutchinson Junior College before enrolling in flight training in 1963 to fulfill his lifelong dream of becoming a professional pilot. A veteran, he served six years in the Kansas Army National Guard and remains a dedicated member of the American Legion. Married to his wife, Susie, for 60 years, he is the proud father of two daughters, Julie Ann and Amanda Jo.

For more information:

Amazon: https://www.amazon.com/Dillon-Companies-Flight-Department/dp/1917116683

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