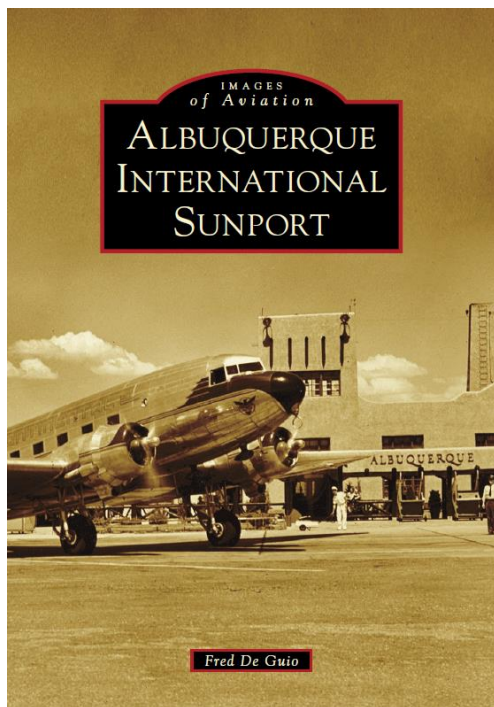


## Images of Aviation

# Albuquerque International Sunport

In 1928, two Santa Fe Railway employees became so intrigued with the advent of aviation that they took it upon themselves to lease a parcel of land and build an airport for the city of Albuquerque. Within one year **Charles Lindbergh** chose Albuquerque to be a stop on the nation's first commercial transcontinental air route between Los Angeles and New York. A north-south air route between Denver and El Paso with a stop in Albuquerque was soon established making the city a crossroads for air service in the southwest. Using funds from a Works Progress Administration grant, the city then constructed its own airfield and the **Albuquerque Municipal Airport** opened in 1939.

Since then, this airport, now the **Albuquerque International Sunport**, has been an air transportation hub for the state of New Mexico and for the southwest United States currently handling more than five million passengers per year. The development of the Sunport as well as the route structure and aircraft of each and every commercial airline that has served Albuquerque since 1929 is detailed in this book. More than 200 photographs are also included, many taken by the author and others by local photographers as well as many historic photos obtained from the Albuquerque Museum.



Author **Fred De Guio**, is a private pilot and commercial aviation historian with nearly 60 years exposure at the Sunport. He has kept record of the routes flown by the airlines and taken hundreds of photographs on site. The author also enjoys travelling within New Mexico, visiting local airports on the way, and serves as a board member for the **Cavalcade of Wings**, a non-profit that documents, displays, and maintains all aviation history throughout the State of New Mexico.