



Source: Pat Nagano. Barnstorming Morro Bay, c. 1924

And.....we're off!

Published January 30th, 2025

At the invitation of Estero Bay News, the Historical Society of Morro Bay is setting off on its latest adventure. We intend to publish brief stories in EBN to highlight a past event from our own backyard including all the communities adjacent to the Morro Bay estuary. We'll provide a photo and description of a fun or notable fact, event, person or story about our neighborhoods and environs. We would love to hear from you if you have a good short story (and photo) we can share.

In this photo by Pat Nagano we have a simple image that is evocative of an earlier era. An expert friend suggests the plane is probably a Curtiss JN-4 'Jenny' that was used as a trainer by the US Army during World War I. Lots of these ended up in private hands after the war and were used to attract attention (and money) to the exciting new age of flight. This suggests the photo date is sometime in the 1920's, probably at the earlier end of that range because the Jennys wore out quickly and were out of service.

The photo shows the airplane on a relatively flat parcel somewhere north and east of Morro Rock and before significant development in north Morro Bay. The "landing field" is just a farmer's field as these old airplanes were designed to be able to land almost anywhere. Who are the people? Notice in the lower left the blurred images of runners leaving the site who appear to be wearing dresses. Maybe they were sight-seers who were attracted to the barnstorming plane that was bringing a little

taste of the developing wider world to Morro Bay.

In future issues HSMB will bring more snapshots of events large and small that describe living on Estero Bay.