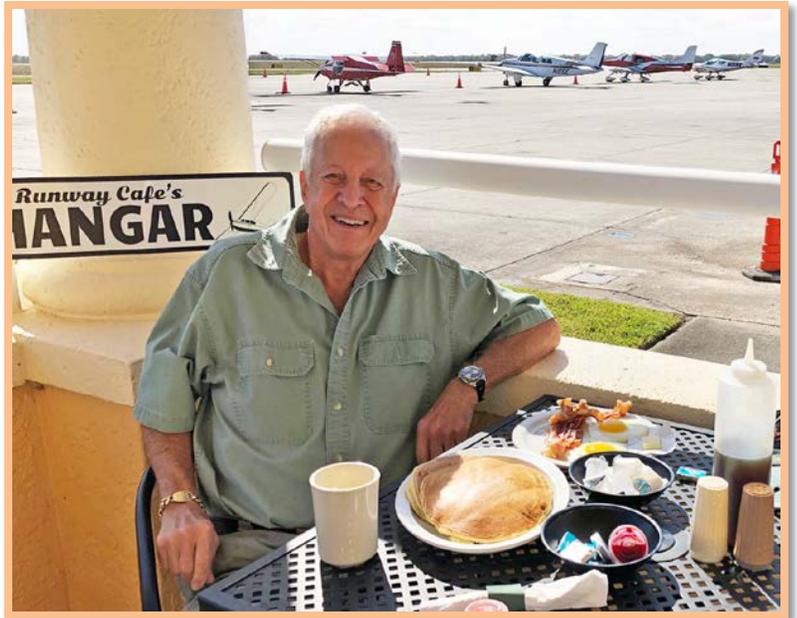


February 20, 2021 - Sebring Regional Airport - 🎵 "I Love a Parade" 🎵

Today's flight was a short 45 minute run over to the Sebring Regional Airport for their famous Blueberry Pancakes, which are filled with fresh blueberries and NOT the typical compote found at most restaurants. It seems that a lot of the airport restaurants that I fly into have their own specialty and this is the one favored at JR's Runway Cafe. I got into a conversation with my server about my airplane, which was parked just beyond my table (and which can be seen right above my head in this photo) and she told me that I was just a couple of days late for Sebring's big event, the *Florida Cracker Trail* horse parade I was not familiar with this and while waiting for my breakfast I Googled it on my phone. It seems that this is an annual event and encompasses a 120 mile week long ride by horse men and women and supporting horse drawn covered wagons from Bradenton, on Florida's West coast



(near Tampa) clear across to Fort Pierce, on the state's Eastern side. Originally used to drive cattle to the ports located at both of these coastal cities the trail has been in existence since the 1850's and was a primary source of delivering beef cattle to Cuba and Key West via ships as well as to the Confederate Army during the War Between the States. The last "big" formal cattle drive was in 1937 but some 50 years later a group of individuals with a love for history formed the Florida Cracker Trail Association to re-create a part of Florida's past with this annual cross state ride. As I had mentioned in a previous blog article about our visit to River Ranch, the term **Florida Cracker** originated from the "cracking" sound that these rider's produced from the large "bullwhips" that they used to help move the cattle along. Just below is a map of the trail, today.



In the map above I have marked the location of the Sebring Regional Airport with a red arrow. You can see that it is located just about in the middle of the State. Of further interest I discovered that the convoy of approximately 50 riders and their horses and wagons were scheduled to arrive in downtown Fort Pierce a little after noon, TODAY!. Fort Pierce is located just to the north of my home in Tradition and is less than a 30 minute drive. By George, if I got back to my home airport in Indiantown after breakfast, and made the drive from there, I could certainly be in Fort Pierce in time to see the horses. After all, *"I love a parade"*. 🎵



The parade was lead by a police escort with lights & siren



Flag bearers with the American & Florida State flags



Supporting wagons contained food & camping equipment.



The Red, White & Blue were seen everywhere.



Cow-folk were not all of the male gender. And some of the cowgirls loved their horses enough to have them tattooed on their shoulder!!

