

"As Wilson desperately searched for financing, an old contact in Arkansas suggested a man in Chicago who might have interest named Hal Darr.

Hal S. Darr was known mainly as an entrepreneur who had a vast array of business interests. At the time he was approached about a possible deal for Monarch, Darr held a wide array of organizations, vast as a Coca-Cola bottling plant and giant Scott Radio of Chicago. In addition, he owned a bank and held several smaller interests. He was of smaller build, and was a somewhat complex individual. Darr did have an interest in aviation, and a deal for Monarch seemed to intrigue him. He had learned to fly in 1917 and had once been a distributor of Curtiss airplanes. He had operated airports at several locations in Iowa and Illinois, in addition to operating pilot training schools. Yet Darr's business persona was much different than anyone in the Monarch circles was used to. He was once described as doing business in a "rough, barbaric, unsophisticated way." As if that weren't suspect enough, a co-worker said of Darr that "he would approach a legal problem kind of like you'd approach buying a gun at a drugstore."

The hard-edged Hal Darr was not only about to climb aboard tiny Monarch Air Lines, but rescue it from certain dissolution as well. Without the Darr infused cash rescue, Wilson and Bonfils were out of options. It was their last chance to save what they had worked so maddeningly to create.

All in one fell swoop Monarch Air Lines was sold, and Ray Wilson now answered to Hal Darr, the company's new president.

With the acquisition in place the Monarch operation was assured, at least for the time being, of some solidarity within the ownership ranks. Ray Wilson was still in charge of operations, so in that respect little changed. Wilson did his best to get along with the unpleasantness of Darr's nature, and again put the goodwill of his people ahead of himself."

*-Excerpted from Frontier Airlines: A History of the Former Frontier Airlines 1950 - 1986 by Gregory R. Stearns*