

## **Marshall Harris, Jr.**

### **Roanoke, VA**



Marshall Harris managed Woodrum Field in Roanoke, Virginia for over 29 years from January of 1945 to June of 1974. During that time, he supervised one of the most active airports in the United States serving military, private, and scheduled airline service in Southwest Virginia. Under his guidance Woodrum Field grew significantly after WWII both commercially and privately. He transitioned from the propeller airliners to the jet-age by supervising the rebuilding and expansion of the all airport facilities to accommodate the larger and heavier aircraft ushered in by the jet-age. Harris supervised construction of the first modern terminal building at Woodrum Field, dedicated in 1953. Harris became interested in aviation in the '30s and was taught to fly by Virginia Aviation Hall of Fame Member W. Clayton Lemon. He went on to acquire his commercial and glider pilot licenses as well as his airframe and engine mechanics, radio operator and parachute rigging licenses. During WWII Marshall developed the curriculum for the aircraft sheet metal and riveting classes in Roanoke City Schools' vocational program. Harris taught aviation ground school to military cadets at Roanoke College in Salem, Virginia under the War Training Service Program. In January 1945 Harris accepted the position of airport manager at Roanoke Municipal Airport, Woodrum Field. Marshall Harris was devoted to the field of aviation and was a true leader in the infancy of the industry in Southwest Virginia. His understanding of so many facets of the industry made him an excellent manager of a growing regional airport as America transitioned from a war footing to a peace-time economy. As the old saying goes "it takes one to know one!" A dedicated pilot can anticipate the needs of other pilots, and Marshall Harris was able to do so during his long career in aviation.