

Al Williams' Gulfhawk II Displayed at Smithsonian

By MAX B. COOK, Scripps-Howard Aviation Editor
NEW YORK, Oct. 22—An era in aviation has come to an end, an era that marked the greatest 14 years in the nation's air progress.

Maj. Al Williams' famed Gulfhawk II which, over the years, acted as a definite inspiration to our air-minded youngsters, now rests in the Smithsonian Institution in Washington—a final honor it well deserves. Thousands of the youngsters it inspired, now are grown-ups. Thousands played an important part in World War II, as pilots, bombardiers, radar or radio experts, or in aircraft maintenance or research.

The story goes back to 1934 when the Scripps-Howard newspapers launched the Junior Aviator movement. It began in Cleveland with some 45,000 boys and girls designing, building and flying model airplanes. It spread rapidly through the nation with its total membership finally passing the 400,000 mark.

Needed a Leader
A leader was needed—someone high in aviation; someone who liked youngsters; someone who knew how to fly. I called on Maj. Al Williams in Pittsburgh and told him the story. The veteran flier, who once was a New York Giants pitcher, a top Navy test pilot and one of the world's leading racing pilots, grinned happily and accepted.

For seven years prior to the war, Al Williams spent all his spare time (he was aviation sales manager for Gulf Oil Co.) with the youngsters. He planned and participated in air shows throughout each summer and all over the country, flying his famed yellow and white striped Grumman Gulfhawk biplane. He cut capers in the sky that thrilled even veteran fliers and then he explained to the young stars how aerobatics made flying safe. He never performed an aerobatic stunt without explaining in detail how it was done—and why.

Al Williams sold aviation and its shining future to tens of thousands of eager-eyed youngsters as they stood proudly displaying their latest designs in many types of model aircraft.

As war approached, many of these Junior Aviators went directly into aviation. Scores in the Cleveland area were hired by the National Advisory Committee on Aeronautics because of their keen interest and ability in designing airplanes.

Grumman Bearcat F8F Navy fighter—remarked: "Saying goodbye to the Gulfhawk II is the toughest thing Al has ever had to do."

AIR LINE TO ISLAND

Commercial air transportation service is to be established between Buenos Aires and the Argentine part of Tierra del Fuego, the bleak island area south of the continental mainland.

Dyed Pheasants Easily Traced

By Science Service

PULLMAN, Wash., Oct. 22—If a pheasant with purple, green or blue feathers crosses your path, you may not be "seeing things." The bird will be real—and the rainbow feather-colors will be real, too.

Outdoor scientists sometimes dye birds' feathers with huss not

found in nature as a means of quick identification at a distance. This enables them to keep track of their movements and learn the extent of their range.

Newest techniques and dyes useful in this particular branch of applied ornithology will be described in the Journal of Wildlife Management by Dr. L. A. Wadkins of Washington State College. Dr. Wadkins has made use of 14 different dyes in a variety of solvents. Best results, on the whole, were obtained with 33 per cent alcohol.

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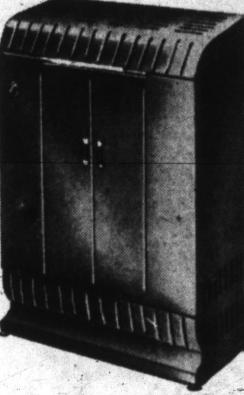
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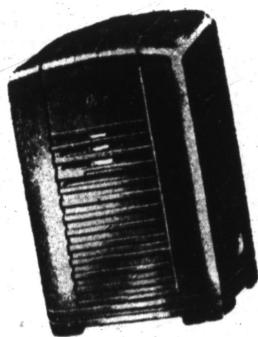
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