

YOUTH MUST FLY!

AN EDITORIAL

It is a strange situation.

The October issue of the digest-size *Pageant* has a cover line, reading, "Why Our Boys Are Afraid to Fly." The article inside is by Hanson W. Baldwin, the military analyst.

Look's Sept. 9 issue ran a 3-page, front-of-the book article, with the startling headline, "Are Young Americans Afraid to Fly?"

And wasn't it but a few months ago that Gill Robb Wilson, Editor and Publisher of the alert *Flying*, was asking the anxious editorial question: "Has American Aviation Lost the American Boy?"

It is a strange situation. It is a far cry from the "Lucky Lindy" spirit. Actually, the spirit is still there. The American boy wants to fly. He is air-minded. But — he hasn't got a chance to get into the air.

The interest of the American boy in aviation is clearly, abundantly demonstrated in the model flying field. It is demonstrated in the popularity of comic strips that portray fliers and their adventures. It is demonstrated in the quickness with which the boys on the sidewalk identify a plane overhead.

The interest is there. The thing that is missing is the opportunity for the boys (and the girls, too) of high school and college age to make the transition from mere interest — from model flying — to actual flight. Not a ride in an airliner (or an inspection of one), or a hop in a private plane as someone's passenger. But *flight* — the feeling of it, the participation in it, yes, the thrill of it.

Perhaps young Americans are afraid to fly militarily — assuming this to be a fact, for the moment — because they fear that which they do not understand, or better put, *that for which they have not been prepared.*

There is a way, a wonderful way, for American boys by the thousands to start flying. This way, of course, is through gliding and soaring. It is simple. It is safe. It is *true flight.*

Soaring stands ready today to serve America through its youth. Never was the time more opportune, never the need greater. Not only will a movement making it possible for American boys to fly strengthen the United States in the air. It will also serve as a great character-building movement in the land.

There must be men in American industry — in the aviation industry — in the world of finance — in education — in public office — in the services — who will be eager to help. *Let the soaring movement lead the way!*

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