

"...TO THE YOUNGSTERS..."

AN EDITORIAL

Ten years ago a book of some 220 pages was published by Harper & Brothers. The title was "Youth Must Fly"; it bore the inscription, "Dedicated to the Youngsters of America."

There is significance in the character of the man who wrote this book. Eugene F. ("Gene") McDonald was the founder and president of Zenith Radio Corp. He was a lieutenant commander in the first World War, and later commanded the *Peary* on one of the two Arctic voyages he made with MacMillan.

Therefore, Gene McDonald's conclusions must be regarded as those of a highly practical man and a man of action, reflecting a realistic point of view. The timing of his book, however, could not have been worse. But that was out of his hands. For the Japanese Empire chose to attack Pearl Harbor at the time "Youth Must Fly" was going to press.

World War II sidetracked the book, and also sidetracked the vigorous soaring movement under way in the U. S. in 1941 (although soaring's leaders, like Lewin Barringer and "Dick" duPont, showed the Air Forces how to create a military glider program).

Gene McDonald's words are once more timely; *time has served only to sharpen the points he made*. He wrote in "Youth Must Fly":

We Americans think of ourselves as air-minded. We are justly proud of our great transport systems, with sleek airliners carrying thousands of passengers on swift, safe, and dependable schedules. We see airports, large and small, humming with the traffic of innumerable private planes, ranging from tiny put-puts to luxurious flying yachts. Youngsters by the million are building and flying models; a fortunate few treasure memories of brief joy hops in private planes. Our newsstands are covered with aviation periodicals and general publications are filled with yarns about flying. Men, women and children have taken to the air for business pleasure until many have grown blasé about their flying experience.

Nevertheless, not one American in ten thousand has ever really flown, has ever felt the thrill of pure flight known only to soaring birds and to the enthusiastic pioneers who have developed gliding and soaring into the finest sport that aviation has to offer, one of the finest sports that mankind has ever known. It is, moreover, a sport of incalculable importance to the welfare of country in peacetime or in war, one that will keep your youngsters air-minded after they have graduated from model building and are still too young for power flight, one that will provide us with a potential reservoir of commercial and military pilots such as the world has never seen.

Amen to that in 1953, Mr. McDonald!

SOARING

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