

Literature of Gliding And Soaring

Aside from folk lore and poetry, one of the first written texts of man's urge to emulate the birds may be found in Leonardo da Vinci's "Sul Volo degli Uccelli." Written of by this artist, author and engineer are the trials and problems of the early theorists which even today provide the impetus for those interested in perfecting the science-sport of pitting man against Nature.

Writers from 1871 to 1893 placed eight works on library shelves. The year 1893 produced five more works and from that year on, with the exception of World War One, from one to twenty-seven different works appeared, indicating an increasing interest up to 1934. Since the latter date hundreds of articles have been written plus many books and even several scenarios for the moving-picture trade.

In 1934 The Soaring Society of America made available a "Bibliography on Gliding and Soaring Flight" which material was prepared for the Society by the Library of Congress. Over two hundred items were included in the list from which herein are set forth works of persons on this continent. Listed under books and pamphlets: "Gliders and Gliding" by Ralph S. Barnaby; "Soaring Flight and Power" by George Ferguson; "Gliding" by D. M. Halley; "Sailplaning" by Arthur Halstead; "How to Build and Fly Gliders" by Popular Book Corporation; "How to Build a 20-foot Biplane Glider" by Alfred Powell Morgan; "Henley's A B C of Gliding and Sailflying" by Victor Wilfred Page; "The Book of Gliders" by Edwin Way Teale; "Gliders and Gliding" by U. S. Department of Commerce, Aeronautics Branch; "Gliding and Soaring" by Percival and Mat White; "Wings for Young America" by National Glider Association; "Experiments and Observations in Soaring Flight" by Wil-

bur Wright; "Soaring Flight" by Albert F. Zahm.

Also included in the bibliography were five serial publications and selected periodical references numbering twenty-six. A most significant work appeared in 1940 in the form of a translation of: "German Ministry of Education: Decree of December 30, 1939, on Promotion of Aviation in Schools and Universities." To be realistic, herein may lie an answer to the lagging interest of our young people toward aviation which, in turn, is evidenced by an increasing difficulty in procuring young men for training as airplane pilots. The promotion of aviation in U. S. schools and universities is practically nil.

In 1940, "Flight Without Power" by Lewin B. Barringer came off the press with the late Professor Alexander Klemm as Advisory Editor. The contents of this book include "History of Motorless Flight" by N. H. Randers-Pehrson; "Aerodynamics" by Paul Schweizer, assisted by Milton Stoughton; "Design, Construction and Maintenance" (of gliders) by Paul and Ernest Schweizer; "Soaring Meteorology" by Karl O. Lange; "Instruments" by Charles H. Colvin and August Raspet. Since the original printing, Barringer's book was revised and issued as of 1942 and reprinted again in 1942 and 1943, at which time Barringer was "Glider Specialist," Air Staff, Headquarters of the Army Air Forces.

"Soaring Flight" by Terence Horsley, is another very readable book. At the time his book was issued Horsley, a soaring pilot, was Editor of the Manchester Chronicle and during World War Two served in the British Naval Air Arm.

An outstanding story, "Alpine Soaring" by Rene Steiner, appeared in "Air Facts-The Magazine for Pilots" as of May, 1946. Steiner's beautiful word picture was occasioned by "Nine Hours Aloft Over Grison, Switzerland's easternmost canton, home of St. Moritz and the peaks of

the Engadine." "Air Facts" certainly has earned the thanks of glider pilots on this continent by publishing a report of a soaring flight that becomes an heroic story!

Other "for instances" are: "The Seed that Became a Tree" by Alexander M. Lippisch, the designer of the world's first Delta Wing aircraft telling of its evolution through the glider stage, from an idea conceived from a seed; incidentally, the same seed whence came John Robinson's name for his record-establishing sailplane, "Zanonia", a name from far-away Indonesia. Another gem, "I Must Have Done It Wrong" by Wally Wiberg, the story of "how not to do it and why;" also "Three Hundred Twenty-Two Miles" by William S. Evans, Jr., holder of world's single-place absolute altitude soaring record of 42,100 feet told in his story, "Eight Miles High;" and "Twelve Hours in a TG-3" by Les Arnold.

Readable are: "We Break Five Hundred" by Richard H. Johnson, holder of world record flight of 535:169 miles from Odessa, Texas, to Salina, Kansas; another by a pilot who wrote, "when you are past sixty," in his story, "My Golden 'C' Flight" by Walter J. "Pop" Krohne; also "Distance with Return" by Richard C. du Pont; "Cross Country" by Chester Decker; "One Hundred Thirty-Five Miles in a Utility Glider" by Henry Wightman; "Seven Hours in a 'Two-Seater'" by Fred C. Barnes; "Washington Test Flight" by Robert M. Stanley; "July 4th Cloud Flight" by Udo Fischer; "Across the Continental Divide" by Peter Riedel; and "Soaring To The Ice Level" by Robert M. Stanley. These are a few of the "gems" produced by glider pilots.

The Soaring Association of Canada, Ottawa, Canada, also publishes a monthly periodical named "Flight" which is doing much to weld together the many groups of glider pilots and friends, in the rapidly growing number of gliding and soaring enthusiasts in Canada.

MEMBERSHIPS (Sustaining)

ELMIRA AREA SOARING CORP.