

EDITORIAL

by JON D. CARSEY

MORE PRINTED MATTER OR A REAL AIR YOUTH PROGRAM

ACCORDING to NATIONAL AERONAUTICS and FLIGHT PLAN, the publication of the National Aeronautic Association, Dr. Raspet's article, "YOUTH FLIGHT TRAINING IN GLIDERS" that appeared in FLIGHT Magazine has "attracted lots of attention in the last few weeks." That is as it should be. The article described a highly successful and economical method of real Air Youth Training.

The commendable program at Mississippi State College under the direction of Guy Storer is one of three being conducted by enthusiastic soaring groups in the country. Another highly successful program that has been in operation for more than a year is conducted for an AIR SCOUT Troop by the SEATTLE COUNCIL at Seattle, Washington. Reports from this Boy Scout Troop and the Glider Council are that the boys are extremely anxious for the training and work long hours of their spare time on the gliders and in ground school for a few minutes of flight training when the weather is suitable.

Another program that is considerably newer, but promises to be equally as popular and equally as fruitful in results, is the one being conducted by the TEXAS SOARING ASSOCIATION at Dallas. Announcement a few weeks ago, before a group of public school boys that flight and ground school

training would be provided for a small fee, brought a flood of applicants. Each weekend has brought out all that could be accepted, eager to fly and to learn what promise aviation has for them.

These programs are proving the true value of gliding and soaring, not only as a flight training method, but also proving its value as an economical screening medium. The programs are providing the boys with a much needed taste of aviation. Those who are suited or find aviation to their liking are proceeding, through this training, to the phase of aviation that interests them most, whether it is flying, engineering, research or whatever it is. Those who do not find that they are suited, or would like it as a vocation or avocation, drop out before long before a great amount of tax or other funds are spent on their behalf.

These training-screening programs are conducted by volunteers. They will peter out, as others on the same basis have in the past, if some encouragement and financial support is not given them.

It is felt that the value of printed matter is real, among aviation's education needs, but it is also felt that something else is needed — *A practical method of providing every American boy with an opportunity to study and master flight.*

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