

# YOUTH WILL FLY

We are indebted to the "Detroit Free Press" and Charles K. Hauke of the Vultures Soaring Club for an account of a young man's flying activities, and to "Airview News" published by Douglas Aircraft Company, for news of two other youngsters of a famous soaring father.

The first young man is 14-year-old Bob Kellner of the Vultures Soaring Club, Detroit, Michigan. The "Detroit Free Press" headlines the story, "Boy Too Young for a Hot Rod Flies a Glider," and goes on to say:

"Bob Kellner, at 14, is too young

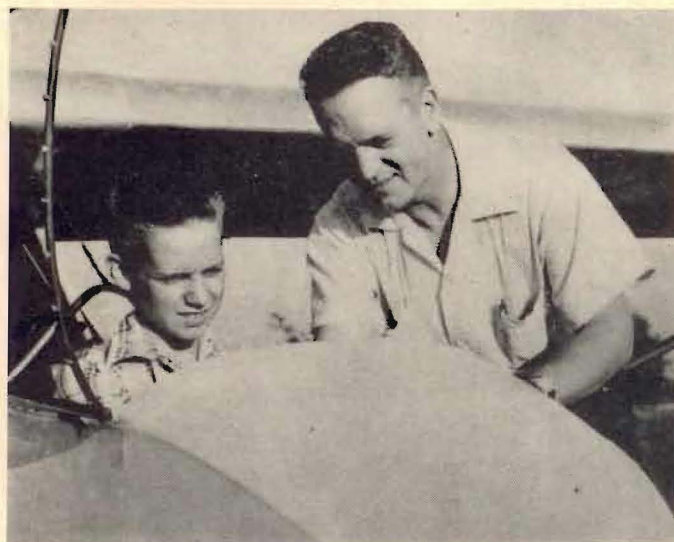
"Bob's instructors were Hauke and Kit Brew, an engineer.

"By the time he was ready to go it alone, the boy had spent only \$50 (less than half what it would cost to learn to fly a regular plane).

"If I had stuck just to winch tows, I could have soloed for about \$20," Bob said.

"While his dad watched, the 14-year-old cut loose the tow line at 800 feet, gulped and started his career as a cloud-hopper.

"I looked back at the empty seat behind me once and it made my scalp



Young Bob being briefed by his Dad before take-off.

to drive a car (the legal age for a license is 16). So he rides in clouds instead of hot rods.

"Like many other youngsters, Bob was bitten with the flying bug when he was 10, but unlike most boys that age, he set out to do something about the 'itch.'

"He started hitchhiking rides with pilots at outlying fields. Two years ago he read about the rebirth of glider flying in the Detroit area.

"At Big Beaver Airport, Bob persuaded Charles Hauke, an accountant, to take him up on his first ride in a glider.

"I got kinda scared," Bob recalled. "It was a funny feeling sitting up there with the wind whooshing by and everything so quiet."

"In the air Bob made up his mind. He had to fly a glider by himself.

"They told me I had to wait until I was 14," Bob went on. On that red letter day, March 31, his dad gave the go-ahead for young Kellner to sprout wings.

Dr. and Mia Klemperer, the proud parents. The Doctor holds the first "C" license in the world.



feel a little prickly," the crew-cut kid recalled.

"After running out of rising air in 10 minutes, he came in for a perfect landing.

"A few minutes later, Bob took off alone again, to prove that the first trip was no fluke.

"In less than four months, the boy has piled up 55 flights and a total flying time of 20 hours—without gas.

"Recently he piloted a glider being towed by air from Toledo to Detroit."

"Airview News" headlines its story

"Eleanor, Walter Klemperer Win Soaring Wings; Nation's Youngest," and continues:

"The two teen-age children of Dr. W. B. Klemperer, Santa Monica Division research engineer, are following in their famous father's footsteps.

"Both Eleanor, 17, and Walter, 14, made solo flights in a sailplane over the Labor Day weekend at El Mirage.

"And, unless their proud father learns otherwise, he is going to claim for them the titles of the youngest boy and girl sailplane pilots in the country.

"It was 34 years ago that Dr. Klemperer himself made his first solo flight in a sailplane.

"He went on to become one of the world's outstanding soaring pilots and noted authority on the sport.

"As a result of their flights, which came only three weeks after their initial instruction, the youngsters were awarded the coveted Three-Seagull Button by the Soaring Society of America.

"Both of the youngsters were in the air more than 30 minutes on their maiden flight. They are students at University High School."

Before making any rash claims we should warn Dr. Klemperer that Bob Kellner's father is Mr. John Kellner or, to be more precise, Detective Lieutenant John Kellner, of Detroit's Holdup Squad.

Regardless of which one was first we offer our congratulations to those young enthusiasts who soon will be competing against each other in national contests.