



Editor's Note: Fifteen-year-old Ronnie Thorsen of Portland has been bed-ridden most of his life with recurrent attacks of rheumatic fever. But that hasn't dampened his enthusiasm for model airplane building which he does with such skill that last year his plane, flown by a friend, took first place in the junior division of the Plymouth International Model Plane Contest at Detroit against a field of several hundred contestants. With plans for another entry this year, Ronnie tells in this series of articles how to get started in one of the fastest growing hobbies in the nation.

CHAPTER FOUR

Covering and Finishing

In building more advanced model planes, nearly all designs make use of covered wing and fuselage rather than solid forms. The variations in designs used by modelers mean that this part of the building becomes one of the most important things to master if you want to really go places in model plane making. Good covering and finishing means a lot when your planes are entered in contests. Judging is based on appearance as well as flyability.

Flying scale designs, which are more or less my specialty, require a lot of little details which call for as much patience as skill. Patience is something I've had to develop while being shut in much of the time.

When you have been working on a design and have built it up to where the final covering and finishing is to take place, it seems like it's what point where your interest is just about at the peak. Only when the craft is about to be sent skyward on its first trip will you have more anxious moments.

Several materials may be used to cover the majority of built-up models. Various types of papers, silks, and fabrics are in general use. Occasionally, even the ambitious modeler may hack into some nylon article belonging to the women of the family, and if he can get away with it, produce a tough cover which will stand a lot of abuse. However, there are some standard procedures that will hold for most covering jobs.

Here are some steps which I find work well for me. One of the first things is to study your covering tissue; notice, if it is paper, that it tears with the grain. Always apply tissue with the grain running lengthwise of model and spanwise on wings. First cut paper to approximate size of part to be covered. A little large is safer and allows some leeway in working.

Lay your tissue on work table and spray with water. A window spray bottle can be adapted very well for this. Now, heavily dope edges of surface to be covered and apply paper while still wet, being careful not to tear it. Pull tissue as tightly as possible without injury. Next comes a very important step. If the piece being worked on is a wing, stabilizer or rudder, pin it down to your working board until it dries or it will be sure to warp. Then while it is still secured to board, apply a coat of dope on the top side. After this has dried, unpin the piece and turn over to repin and dope on the other side. Now, for example, if you are working on a wing, unpin it and turn it over again. Pin trailing edge of one wing half down on board. Dope, watch, and adjust with the hands as it dries to avert warp. Then repeat on the other wing half.

If fuselage is rounded, cover in small sections; apply wet tissue as above. After covering all of fuselage, give the whole a coat of dope. Individual small parts of a plane such as doors and the panels are covered using the same technique.

A model needs no more covering than this and will probably fly best this way as each coating of dope adds weight. Should you want to color your model, apply one or two coats of color dope, pinning each surface as before to prevent warping. If your model has too dull a finish to suit you, add a last coat of clear dope. Keep in mind that each coat of dope may cut down the flight performance of your plane.

For just a word regarding finishes on all balsa models, you should first apply a coat of standing sealer. After this dries, sand smooth and apply a second coat of sealer. After again sanding smooth, the surface is ready for color doping. One clear coat of lacquer as a finish gives a gloss.

Something to keep in mind as far as finish is concerned is that fuels used in gas-powered engines will in many cases ruin a pointed surface. Keep fuels away from them unless you want to re-paint. In dressing up your plane for appearances sake, there are many desirable decals available. Numbering, authentic trademarks, designs and decorations are available through your model dealer. Individuality may be shown by applying your own painted designs if you are so talented.

It is a little difficult to cover such a wide subject as model plane making in such a brief way as thousands of words and detailed instructions are being printed each month in the many model and hobby magazines. I have been trying to give my own reactions to plane building and offer a few things that have worked for me.

Card Of Thanks

We wish to express our heartfelt thanks to all who extended their comfort, sympathy and help in our bereavement, when our little daughter, sister and grand daughter was taken from us.

Mr. and Mrs. Lanty Huffman,
Vonda Lee Huffman,
Dennis Huffman,
Grandma Pointer.

Call For Bids

Bids will be received for driving school bus for District No. 23, bidder to furnish bus. Route will run from junction of county and Matlock roads, 3.5 miles and from junction of north bank road and Comstock driveway, 1.5 miles. Bus to seat 12 pupils. Bids will be opened August 9, at 8 p. m. Address all bids to H. J. Sparks, Clerk, School District, No. 23, Brookings, Ore. 22-2*

Read Pilot class ads—it pays!

Rebekahs Decide Float Picture Will Be Tinted For Hall

Second July meeting of Topaz Rebekah lodge was held Tuesday evening. Noble Grand Rita Tierce appointed her committees for this term with the following being named:

Good of the Order — Harriett Stephenson.

Community Service — Verna Mendenhall.

Cards—Dolly Brainard.

Flowers—Ethel Frazier.

Azalea Festival Representative — Harriett Stephenson.

Lily Blossom Time Representative—Grace Zirbel.

It was decided to obtain a big photograph of the Odd Fellows and Rebekah float in the Lily Blossom Time parade, and Nellie Bush offered to tint it so that it can be framed to hang in the hall.

A vote of thanks was given to Jack Kinney for building the new dish cupboard in the kitchen, a needed improvement. It was also voted to assist the Odd Fellows at their dance this Saturday, when they are trying to raise funds for regalia.

A box containing yarn, crochet thread, quilt scrap pieces and other materials for the use of the ladies in the Odd Fellows home at Portland will be sent soon, so that they will have them in time to make Christmas presents.

Following the meeting, refreshments of sandwiches and coffee were served by Bonnie Leming, Billie Flynn and Adelia Hassett.

Entertainment Will Feature Legion Convention, Salem

SALEM—American Legion convention headquarters here stated that top attractions at the "Con-

vention Cavalcade" to be presented Friday night, Aug. 5, at the state fairground as a feature of the 31st annual convention of the Legion will be Eddie Dean, popular western picture star and recording artist, and "Cheeta," the famed movie monkey in "The Little Circus." Along with Cheeta will be Tato, the clown, who will present "Robert," the comedy mule and "Spotty" the most beautiful Shetland pony.

The two-hour outdoor show will follow a day-long program of feature events that begins at 1:30 with the Junion Legiokana parade. At 3 p. m. the world-famous U. S. navy "Blue Angels" will present a program of precision flying and aerial acrobatics in F8F Gumman "Bearcast" at Salem airport.

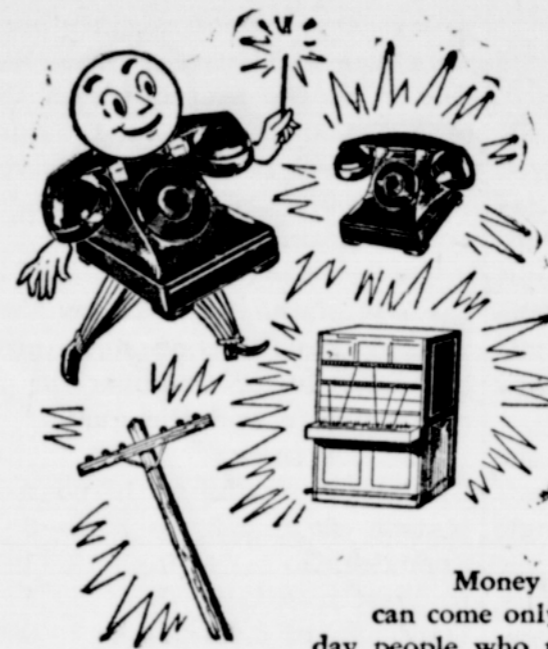
The next feature of interest to delegates and the general public will be the grand convention parade slated for downtown Salem at 7 p. m. The parades and airshow will be free to the public.

The convention will wind up on Saturday, August 6, with the election and installation of officers in the House of Representatives.

Local News Items

Harry Payne was called to Grants Pass the first of the week by the death of his wife's mother. He returned Tuesday and will be joined by his family soon.

Mrs. Frank Waldien is convalescing at home after undergoing a major operation at the Seaside hospital, Crescent City, earlier this month.



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