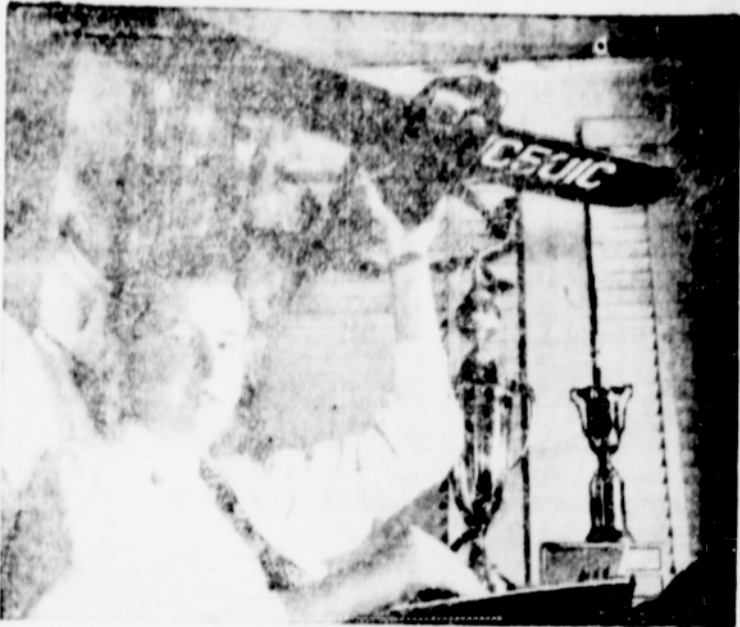




Ronnie Thorsen, 15-year-old Portland model plane builder, whose series of articles "Tips from a Champ" begins today, is shown here with the flying model which captured first prize in the 1948 Plymouth International Model Airplane Contest in Detroit.



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.

WHAT PLANE TO BUILD
So you want to build a model? I started building model planes nine years ago and during each step of the way had loads of fun doing it. Most of the information and instructions on how to build the various types of planes was gotten directly from the written instructions furnished by the model magazines and also in plans included in ready-to-assemble kits.

As a model builder turns out more and more planes, he works out ways to use his own ideas. That part of building is a lot of fun to me. As I have much spare time to spend I have made over 30 actual flying models in recent months. In these articles on model building, I'd like to draw on my past experience and offer some points that helped my plane to place in last year's statewide model plane meet and also at the Plymouth International Model Plane Contest in Detroit.

I didn't have the chance to actually fly at the two tournaments, but my good friend, Jack Hudspeth, an Oregon boy who last year became Junior International Model Plane Champion in all divisions, flew them and came out on top for me in one class.

And now I want to talk more about the actual work on models. First, you must learn something about what makes a plane "tick," and this you learn by building a simple, all-balsa primary glider and observing its flight. Your hobby dealer has many fine kits from which to choose. Also get a good model knife with sharp replaceable blades, several grades of sandpaper and a tube of quick drying airplane glue. A soft pine board or soft wall board makes an ideal working surface. (Please don't nick up the dining room mahogany!) Have a big waste basket handy for

shavings and scraps if you want up after each job.

Study your full size plans and written instructions carefully, using a lot of patience. Your results are bound to be good. Have your pal build a glider too and you will double your fun with competition. It just seems like you can get more interested and turn out better models if fellows you know are building also. It's fun to compare notes and talk about ideas. After you have built, flown and observed a glider, the next step is to build a simple rubber-powered model of the all-balsa type.

This model is the first real step in model plane making. It is here that the model maker combines flight qualities learned in studying the glider types with types that can fly under their own power. In building rubber-powered planes, you can experiment and design your own, but I think the best plan at this stage is to follow plans worked out by other model makers. If you follow the directions carefully, you will have no trouble.

As you get experience, you'll be able to take in your stride the more intricate details involved in building and flying bigger planes. There are so many different plans available to modelers that it's hard to recommend any particular styles. But it will be easiest for you when planning which one to build, if you take each type as it comes, and don't try the difficult ones first.

If you are still interested in flying after these preliminary models, you might like to make a motor powered plane for a small glow plug engine (.020 to .040 displacement).

IF A MAN'S BLESSED WITH A GOOD JOB AND A GOOD DIGESTION HE SHOULDN'T WORRY ABOUT TOMORROW UNTIL DAY AFTER TOMORROW



ments—these are quite reasonable in price.

But before you run down to the hobby store for the model, you must decide whether you will want one that flies free flight or control line. Buy one of the simpler models designed by beginners and made for a motor of that size. Later on, you will, no doubt, want to start one of the larger models built

Accidental Shot Hits Boy in Face

Dorman McGinn, about 10, of Beaverton, was reported recovering from an accidental shot in the face Tuesday afternoon when an old revolver discharged accidentally in a playmate's home.

The bullet from a .38 calibre weapon pierced the right side of the face just above the lower jaw and lodged in the left side of his neck, according to Chief Deputy Sheriff Al Nossack who investigated the accident. McGinn was rushed to the office of Dr. Herbert Mason, who removed the slug and pronounced the boy's condition as not critical.

The mishap occurred at the home of Donald Lee White, 14, 770 S.E. 13th street. He was showing the revolver to McGinn and pulling the trigger when it discharged, according to Nossack.

For those of you who plan to construct models using gas powered engines, there have been many improvements made in this type of motor in the last year or so. It used to be that the model maker had to fit a lot of stuff in his plane to operate the little gas engines. Batteries, condensers, and ignition systems have now been eliminated. The new glow plug engines generate their own ignition heat as they run. Powering your model is one of the most interesting parts of this hobby. The remarks on my next article will be on this subject.

Say you saw it in the Argus

Farmers' Union Picnic Held Here

Annual picnic of the Washington County Farmer's Union was held July 17 at Shute park in Hillsboro with a good crowd attending. Plans were completed for the Farmers' Union days at the coming Washington county fair. It was decided that all members of the local union will wear badges to identify themselves as members on the day.

Speeches were given by a number of the officials and the afternoon was spent in round table discussions and recreation.

Catholics Plan New School Here

Bids will be received by the archdiocese of Portland until 2 p.m. August 4 for the construction of a proposed new St. Matthew's Catholic grade school in Hillsboro, as announced by Edward D. Howard, archbishop.

The building, a one-story reinforced concrete structure with full basement, will measure 63 by 245 feet.

Eight classrooms and a teachers' and nurses' room have been planned for the interior. Construction will be of wood and the building will be heated by a steam system.

The new school will be on the same lot as is the present school which is to be renovated into an auditorium upon completion of the proposed school.

Thursday, July 28, 1949—Hillsboro (Ore.) Argus

New Classes Set For Grove Pool

A new junior and senior life-saving class, with Red Cross-trained instructors in charge, will start Tuesday at the Forest Grove pool. It was announced this week.

Classes will be conducted from 6 to 7 p.m. Tuesday through Friday. The age limit for the junior class is 12 through 15 while persons 16 and over may enter the senior class. Prospective students may sign up before Tuesday or may register upon appearing for the first class.

Instructors pointed out that training in the classes may be used by Boy Scouts for advancement.

A water ballet has been scheduled tentatively for the middle of August. It was reported, and several girls from Hillsboro are expected to take part in the ballet. Clown diving and demonstration of basic swimming strokes also are slated for the free show.

A 56-year-old man in Sydney, Australia, is suffering from an extremely rare blood disease which makes him laugh almost all the time.

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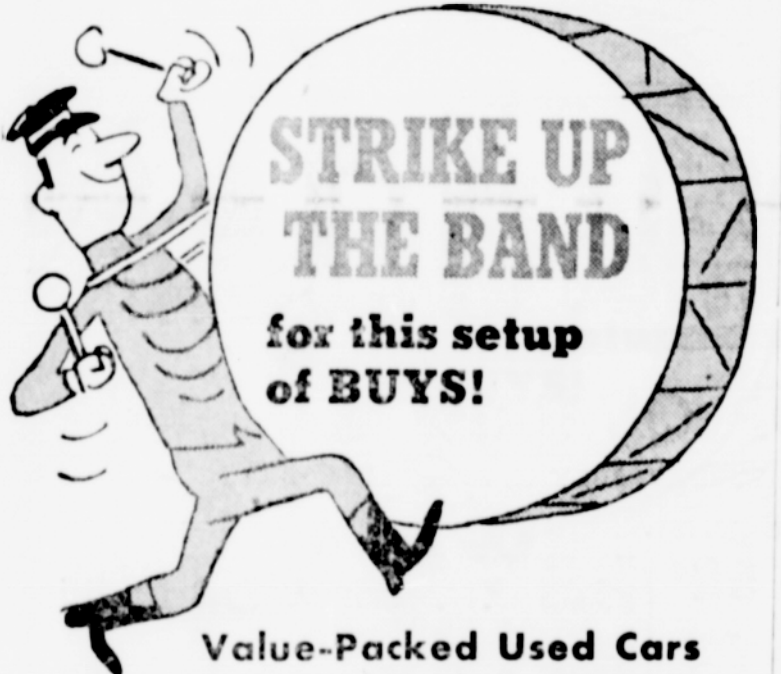
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