A Sooner's Idea Converts An Oklahoma City to Aviation

Wings for Students

By Betty Kirk, '29

EDUCATION must be prophetic. It cannot rest merely on the achievements of the past but must anticipate the needs of the future.”

This is the belief of Powell Boyd, '23 arts-sc., who as a "prophet" of the future needs of young America has become sponsor and chief enthusiast in the establishment of an aeronautical training school in Altus high school, of which he is assistant principal.

Boyd's classes in aviation have been training for the past six weeks and are preparing for a full course in the high school curriculum next year. This study will include the construction of gliders and sail planes and thorough knowledge of aero dynamics.

Such a program is ambitious for even a normal-minded community but it

Students. “Fools can fly!” and “Mine for terra firma!” were the gist of the remarks he had heard from the older people gathered for the evening.

The short-sightedness of such an attitude seemed vicious to him and during the night he resolved to attempt to open to his students the knowledge of flying which was their due as residents of an airminded age.

"Ten years from now,” says Boyd, “it will be as necessary and as casual for a man to drive a plane as it now is for him to drive a car. There is no use for children to grow up ignoring the thing that belongs to them. It is not of such practice as this that progress and intelligence are made.

"Moreover this was just a case of the older generation intimidating the new, not consciously nor to any particular purpose. It was just that they didn’t understand them. And the reason the older generation can’t understand the younger,” says Boyd nodding his head wisely, "is that the mothers and fathers can’t do the things their youngsters can.”

If you know Boyd you can understand the tremendous enthusiasm which backed up his idea and the real care for his students which he is exerting in trying to open for them practical vistas into the future.

He has adapted his own plans for the summer to the furtherance of the aviation course and is to supplement his experience as a mere passenger by taking a course in aviation and working for a pilot's license. This work will be taken either in Tulsa or in San Diego, California.

An interesting aspect of the course instituted in Altus is that it parallels the courses given in the gymnasiums, or high schools, of Germany. Here aviation is stressed as one of the most important developments of high school training and is almost universally included as a course.

The study of aviation in the German schools has given rise to an interesting experiment which will also be adopted by the Altus students. The limitations of the Versailles treaty prohibit the students using airplanes for study and as a recourse they have developed their own gliders and sail planes.

Research work has been done by the Altus students for the construction of such gliders. The most interesting experiment in this connection, says Boyd, was made on an afternoon when the twelve members of the class sat on a hilltop and studied the flight and soaring of a vulture. They then examined in laboratory a cross section of the bird’s wing and found it to be an exact duplicate of the Goettingen air foil used in the Douglas plane.

"Man has had this same development before him for thousands of years but only recently has he learned to adapt it to his own needs,” says Boyd. “When our students realize this and by observation become convinced that flying is a normal development they lose all fear and work only to conquer the mechanics of the business.”

The course which will be given is based entirely on the scientific study and mechanics of flying. Students who are admitted have been hand picked, not only for their own personal responsibility but for their ability to study (Turn to page 368, please)
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reflection of the teacher's inspiration with him.

"Unless the colleges preserve the spiritual attitude of life, it will be lost entirely. In the struggle for bread there is small chance of idealism. Even in college there are counterfeit coins in circulation and there are many ideals that simulate the spiritual but in reality are material and earthly. Hence, the selection between the higher and the lower things which has been cultivated in college life must be carried with you.

"My final message to every student is to seek not grades but scholarship; not honors but honor; not fine clothes but a fine spirit; not loyalty to fraternities or sororities but human kindness toward all; not social distinction but social service; not victory over other institutions but victory over a lower self in one's own institution; not a good time but a good life; not pleasure but God. This last statement Carlyle has summed up in his wonderful sentences, 'Love not pleasure, love God. This is the everlasting yea, wherein all contradiction is solved, wherein whoso walks and works, it is well with him.'"

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and comprehend physics and mathematics.

Miss Violet Shoemaker, instructor in mathematics, and Clyde Fleming, 26 arts-sc., instructor in physics, are two of the school's chief aviation enthusiasts and have adapted their courses to the study of aviation problems.

All possible material is furnished by the government and an instructor, Lieutenant G. V. Holleman, of Post Field, Fort Sill, lectures twice a week to the students.

The most recent literature, diagrams and maps on aviation problems are provided for the school by the Advisory Committee on Aeronautics, the department of commerce and the air service corps, all of Washington and the Aeronautical Chamber of Commerce of New York City.

Application has been made to the government for a training plane to be used for ground work. No license will be granted to fly this plane but research work in motors and instruments will be made with it.

Two sponsors of the course who are most enthusiastic, says Boyd, are J. C. Barnett, principal of the high school, and M. L. Cotton, superintendent. Hutton Bellah, 23 arts-sc., editor of the Altus Times-Democrat, is particularly interested in aviation and has added his influence to that of the twelve students and their instructors to convert Altus from a fear stricken community into one of the chief exponents of aviation training for high school students in the United States.

Olinka Hrdy

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entered a class in mural painting which was being organized by Miss Edith Mahler on her return from Italy where she had made a special study of frescoes. At once Olinka showed that her talent lay there; she seemed to have an innate feeling for flat colors and line rhythms, and she took a genuine, sometimes Puckish delight in her compositions.

Her first complete mural was "The Maker of Dreams" for one of the dramatic art studios. This showed so much promise that Professor Jacobsen helped Olinka make arrangements to cover her next year's living expenses by painting. This was naturally a very congenial work, it gave her much time for her art and afforded her a chance to try her wings. The result is a set of twenty panels in the dining hall of the girls' dormitories of the university.

These panels are greatly admired and draw many interested visitors although at first they were a source of unhappiness to the house mother. They depict the products of the earth: one panel shows in a dream sea marine life, fishes ready for the net, in another impish monkeys play with coconuts, still another shows a farmer plowing and sowing; a luminous watermelon is being plucked by a grinning black, harvesters work in the sun, domestic animals and game prance about, blushing lobsters peck at the toes of bathing beauties; in an orchard a bewitching lady exhibits oranges. All this pageant of food converges toward the central panels where medieval figures — the king and queen Olinka calls them — sit in state while attendants bring on heaped trays all the bountiful makings of a feast.

Her last year at the university Olinka paid for her board and room by decorating the Copper Kettle, a student restaurant. This is an open rafter hall reminiscent of some quaint Gothic inn in England.

To be in keeping with the architecture Olinka used figures dressed in medieval costumes in an allegorical composition which is yet modern in technique and pokes fun at modern college life. There poor Professor Sooner is overpowered and burnt at the stake by irate students who did not pass in French; there are contests and tournaments with fans lustily singing some version of Boomer-Sooner; there are queens and jelly beans, dandys and jazz. A modern girl is seen bobbing her hair and having her skirt shortened by a friend while the ladies of fashion of the ages look on disapprovingly. Near the pantry doors fat cooks prepare Gargantuan feasts, waiters in freshman caps perform acrobatic stunts with trays, hopeful beggars turn upon all comers pleading and somewhat impudent faces.

For Olinka was particularly happy that year; her work was light; she felt the exhilaration of her technique; she was at home in Norman having by that time acquired many good friends. She had even become the pet of the campus poets. They used to gather around her easel and they almost persuaded her to give up painting for versifying. Her murals at the Copper Kettle are happy and rollicking.

They attracted trade in a noticeable manner, and although she received for them only her keep they are now worth more than the whole building.

After graduating Miss Hrdy spent the summer painting two scenes for the entrance of Central high school in Oklahoma City, designing also some modernistic stage drops and furniture.

The fall saw her in Tulsa where she undertook the mural decorations for the interesting and altogether modernistic Patti Adams music studio built by the gifted young architect, Bruce Goff. This was indeed an opportunity for Olinka as the building, departing boldly from the hackneyed and conventional, offered her the best chances to use the abstract compositions which she loves. And she had the joy of working with an understanding and sympathetic architect in such a way that their individual works harmonize.

In the recital hall stands the central mural decoration representing "The Art of Music" in an abstract way and using colors to form a symphonic whole. Eight other panels depicting chamber music, vocal music, folk music, etc. and the jazz music of the future will complete the decorations of this beautiful hall. There is also a strange and intriguing screen painted by Olinka for the piano studio.

Besides this mural work Olinka has painted for her own pleasure many (Turn to page 370, please)