

He Glides Through the Air with the Greatest of Ease



Noland examines the wing flaps prior to take-off.



"Fasten your seat belts . . ."

In a Motorless Plane, If You Please

Nelson Noland checks rotating drum which records the "ups and downs" of his flight.

By MADGE LANE
 "It's a family affair, this hobby of gliding," says Nelson B. Noland of Birmingham.
 "It has to be," his wife "Bonny" interposed with a twinkle. "When our husbands are soaring every weekend we figure we might as well join them. Sometimes we make it a picnic. There are always other wives to talk to."
 Weather permitting, members of the Vulture Club can be found from April until Oc-

tober at Big Beaver Airport. Some 25 men come from not only the Birmingham-Bloomfield area but as far as Windsor to pursue this exciting sport.
 "THERE IS a rapture you experience that is hard to describe," said Noland.
 "The silence up there is profound. From a mile up you can hear the sound of an automobile horn or a diesel engine. There is little vibration and of course no engine noise, since the glider has no

engine. This feeling is something that you miss in a power plane."
SAILPLANES, WHICH the members use exclusively, are a type of glider designed to make the best use of air currents. They are sleek, streamlined craft with slender wings, which may have a span of more than 40 feet, yet weigh less than 400 pounds. The clonewoven two-seater ship with a wing span of 52 feet weighs nearly 627 pounds. It has a single-wheel landing gear that is centered under the body.
 It is controlled in flight as an airplane with many of the same

instruments, but is not as complex. In fact, a 14-year-old can learn to fly this motorless plane and get a "student glider pilot rating" from the Federal Aviation Authority after completing the required number of flights and passing the FAA tests.
 "SOME OF our members started at 14, a couple over 60," he says. There is very much interested. There is definitely a great safety factor in flying the sail plane because of the wide wing span for the size of the body, and the low speed landing," Noland pointed out. The ability to lose altitude slowly is called "low sinking speed" and has been likened to "thistledown descending in still air."

"Actually, the only hazard I've experienced is the presence of over-enthusiastic spectators out at the airport. Of course, visitors are welcome," he added with a smile. "And a ride can be arranged. Our club owns a brand new two-seater. Rental to members or visitors is six dollars an hour, and 50 cents to be launched by our winch."
THE SENIOR member and past president of the Vulture is Harold Drew, of Bloomfield Hills. He designed and was largely responsible for the winch at Big Beaver Airport. Recently retired from General Motors, Drew plans to move to England.
THE ENGINE-powered winch pulls the glider into the air from level ground, somewhat like a slingshot but rather than catapulting the craft, tows it with enough speed so that it soars as a great kite.
 The difference between a glider, as many people know it, and a sailplane is that a glider is not as maneuverable. It can be launched into the air and then comes down where a sailplane can glide at very flat angles. It can glide downward

on air and soar upward making use of the rising air currents.
 "MANY PEOPLE labor under misconception that you need hilly country for this kind of flying. As a matter of fact our country around here is excellent because of the air currents that form over ground that is warmed by the sun. I sit with my legs stretched out in front of me, and I dress just about the way I am now," his index finger swept from his T-shirt to his bermudas.
 "Of course soaring out in the mountainous regions is something else again. Altitude would require oxygen and thermal suits, for comfort."
"MY LONGEST FLIGHT lasted over five hours, and I'm fairly new at it. I got interested less than two years ago when I read an article in "Sports Illustrated." The next night I mentioned it at a party and someone said—Oh they do that out at Big Beaver."
INSTRUCTION in engineless flight is not given at the airport so Noland began by taking power flying lessons.
 By European standards this would be the reverse procedure. In many countries abroad, glider flying is a required part of the airplane pilot training program.
 "Some of our members are

German ex-military pilots. One of our members represents a German glider firm. But I bought my ship at Elmira, New York, and brought it back on a tow trailer." He brought out colored snapshots of a trim craft with wings disassembled, so that it was no wider than an automobile for traveling cross country.
MICHIGAN HAS two launching sites with winches — Big Beaver and Adrian. But the Vulture makes flights in other states and in Canada.
 Rudolph Moezer of Bloomfield Hills holds the Michigan record for the longest flight. In the air for

eight hours, he flew 396 miles over Adrian, Michigan, to Frederick, Maryland. Kempe Trager, a former member, was national champion in 1955.
CLOUD SOARING began in Germany, but it is a lively sport in the United States.
 The Vulture Club that meets at the Birmingham Community House on Tuesday, helps interest to flourish in this thrilling sport.
 Dues contribute to the maintenance of the winch, club plane and other equipment that they own and keep at Big Beaver Airport. New members are always welcome.

State Writers to Confer At Oakland U. in October

"One good conference calls for another," according to the co-sponsors of last year's Writers' Conference held at Oakland University. And there are six local residents who'll testify to that by taking part as leaders.
 They are conference director Mrs. Walter (Priscilla) Jackson, 927 Madison, Birmingham, and panelists Mrs. John (Sylvia) Cooper, 383 Pilgrim, Birmingham; Mrs. Charles (Margaret) Williamson Peterson of Franklin; Mrs. William (Mary Augusta Rodgers) Schoen, 1240 Dorchester; Mra. Henry (Andrina Iverson) Gilmarin, 18187 Birwood, Birmingham; Mrs. Thomas (Aileen) FitzPatrick, 2414 Dorchester, Birmingham, and W. Sprague Holden, 28150 Westbrook, Farmington.

NEARLY 400 WRITERS from all over the state attended last year's workshop, which was co-sponsored by the Division of Continuing Education at Oakland University and the Detroit Women Writers Club.
 This year's conference will be held Oct. 5; the theme will be "The Craft as a Partnership of Creative Writing."
HEART OF THE DAY's program will be small round table discussion groups on various types of writing and writing problems. Each round table will be led by one of the published writers staffing the conference.
 Participants will be given opportunity to choose three out of more than 25 subjects presented at round tables. Some round tables are designed only for published writers and others are planned to present basic and fundamental information for beginners or newcomers to a specific field of writing.

The Far East Is Topic of Lecture Series

"The Far East" will be the topic of a series of two lectures and a panel discussion to be held in the auditorium of Kingswood School-Cranbrook on Oct. 1, 8 and 15. The series is being presented by the Altrusa Club of Greater Birmingham.
 Speakers will be Dr. Joseph K. Yamagata, chairman of the department of Far Eastern Languages and Literature at the University of Michigan, and Dr. L. A. Peter, acting director of the Center for South Asian Studies at U.M.
YAMAGATA WILL lecture on "Religious and Cultural Activities in Present Day Japan" on Oct. 1; Gosling's subject will be "Man in the East Asian Landscape" on Oct. 8. Both will return for the discussion on Oct. 15. All sessions will begin at 8 p.m.
 Tickets for the series may be purchased at the Village Bookshelf, 790 N. Woodward, Birmingham, or from any member of the Altrusa Club.

ROUND TABLE leaders include William B. Snodgrass with "A Discussion of Writing Poetry." Dr. John Schmittroth on "Stream of Consciousness"; Mary Augusta Rodgers on "Short Story and Artistic as Kissing Cousins"; James L. Limbacher on "The Differences Between Film, Radio and TV Scripts"; Jay McCormick and Andrina Iverson, both Hopwood winners, will discuss "The Emotional Investment in the Novel" and "Impressions as Kissing Cousins"; James L. Limbacher on "First and Final in the Short Story."
 Luncheon speaker will be Anna Mary Wells speaking on "Travels with a Notebook: Researching."
PARTICIPANTS WILL turn to the practical aspects of marketing manuscripts late in the afternoon when Margaret Hendrix, editorial associate, "Writers' Digest," lec-

tures on "Into Print: Prose Markets."
 For the poets a round table session will be held on poetry and light verse markets. An editors' round table will feature Robert Bassil, editor of "Voices," Richard Dey, editor of Wayne State University Press, and Carl Hartman, editor of "Perspective," discussing "The Regional Writer in Search of his True Voice."
OTHER FEATURES of the conference will be a manuscript criticism service and displays of current magazines offering market possibilities.
 At the request of the co-sponsors of the Writers' Conference, Governor George W. Romney will proclaim the week of Sept. 29-Oct. 5 as Michigan Writers Week.
 Reservations for the Writers' Conference may be made by calling the Division of Continuing Education, Oakland University.

Local Lions Club Gets Peter Nero for Concert

Pianist-composer Peter Nero will be the performer for the Birmingham Lions Club annual fall concert.
 The concert will be held at 8:30 p.m. Oct. 9 in the Birmingham Theatre, not in one of the Birmingham schools, as it has been in the past.
 The reason for the change, explained Harris Marchus, a member of the local Lions Club, is so that tickets can be sold on a "reserved seat basis." There are approximately 1200 seats in the theater.
 Tickets may be purchased from Young's Birmingham or at Grinnell's.
THE STYLE of Nero, a 28-year-old pianist and entertainer, is a blend of classical and jazz music, which he began playing when he was seven and by the time he was 11, he was the recipient of numerous awards, had made symphony hall appearances and was the possessor of a Juilliard scholarship.
 A native of New York City, Nero is a graduate of the High School of Music and Art, where he won first prize; he studied at Juilliard for three years on scholarship and was graduated from Brooklyn College.
HIS "PROFESSIONAL breaks" included an appearance on Arthur Godfrey's "Talent Scouts" (for which he won first prize), subsequent appearances on "Chance of a Lifetime," and a concert tour with Paul Whiteman.

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