

# AVIATION CHATTER - BY GEORGE HATCH

3-9. The local airport had its first large army and navy aircraft landings. This past week-end saw First Lt. Willie Parks fly in with a AT6; this aircraft weighs around 6 tons and the final trainer for flight students before stepping into fighter planes such as the P-37 Thunderbolt and Navy Corsairs. Lt. Parks is stationed at Montgomery, Ala., and is teaching army flight students in advance flying.

An old friend of mine, Comdr. Ours of Washington, D.C., together with Comdrs. Antoniak, Doll, and Chambers, landed in a Navy Beech transport to attend the funeral of Comdr. D. A. Harrell, Scotland Neck, who was killed in an aircraft crash somewhere in Florida. Two other high-ranking navy officers also landed in Sn J, called the AT-6 by the Army. They all praised our airport for the long runways and approaches thereto.

Tom Davis, president of the Piedmont Aviation Corp., Winston-Salem flew in with his beautiful Stinson Voyager to give the field the once-over and induce yours truly to take on the Piper Cub agency for postwar aviation.

Arrangements are being made through W. A. Mahler, superintendent of Tarboro City Schools, to organize an aviation pre-flight class for all students 16 years of age or over. This training will be given at the local high school one or two hours per week. The subjects to be taught will be civil air rules and regulations, aerial navigation, meteorology, and aircraft maintenance. The entire course will take approximately ten weeks to complete.

3-13 Although we haven't quite finished our new eight plane individual hanger, we do have the credit of saying that all hangers have been filled. Last week Mr. Romaine Howard purchased from a party in Florida a beautiful Piper Cruiser. "Sonny" Brown bought the 125 HP Warner Fleet. Yours truly purchased another 65 HP Cub trainer for student work. The airport now has two cub trainers, one Aeroneca trainer, one Fleet trainer, a three place cruiser, and a three passenger full instrument Stinson voyager for charter service. Two new Crop dusting aeroplanes are about ready for delivery. Numerous private owners have asked for hanger space, and according to the personal information I received several local prospects intend to purchase planes upon completion of their flight training. Students are being taught to fly from Elizabeth City, Scotland Neck and Wilson, N. C. Our shop for aircraft recovering and engine repair is expected to be ready for service sometime next week. Three planes have been brought from Clinton, N.C., to be recovered and engines majored. Added to the airport staff are Mr. Foy Pullen, Aircraft and Engine Mechanic; also Instructor, and Mr. Ken Moore, mechanic and aircraft helper. The airport seems to be the real attraction these days. Last Sunday I counted 107 cars parked watching the students training, and charter trip passengers being carried.

## THINGS THAT INTEREST YOU

HFN is most grateful to M/Sgt. Charlie Hale, of Scotland Neck for \$5.00 donation through his aunt, Mrs. Mavis Thigpen Lewis. We reluctantly accept, since we feel as little as we can do back here is to keep them in touch with home. But thanks, Charlie, and our very best wishes.

Many thanks to Mrs. Katie B. Hart, mother of "Peck" and "Hunk" for HFN contribution.

We are indebted to Mrs. M. L. Laughlin and Mr. Hassel Thigpen for contributions of \$5.00 each.

Mrs. Mae Tooley added \$1.00 to our fund to help get this paper to you.

Old World War I Veteran, Watson Smoot, dropped five bucks in our bucket to help defray expenses. (Remember him- he was wounded in the Toul Sector last war.)