

JIM AND AMY PRAISE NEW SYWELL.

Famous Flyers Visit County Aero Club.

July 9th 1934.

CHRONICLE & ECHO

The Mystery of the Missing Aeroplane

CAN anyone in Northampton district solve the mystery of the missing aeroplane?

Yesterday Mr. Howard Boys, of Weedon, launched a model aeroplane at Sywell Aerodrome. Instead of sailing a few hundred yards at a height of about 150 feet it straight away climbed to 1,000 feet and set off at a high speed down wind. Astonished spectators watched it growing smaller and smaller as it got further and further distant, and then, with a last twinkle in the bright sunshine it disappeared from view.

"It must have been at least a mile away," Mr. Boys told a "Chronicle and Echo" reporter, "and even then it was at a tremendous height. How far it flew after that I cannot estimate, but I am anxious to find it because the distance may be a record."

"It was travelling in the direction of Moulton or Boughton, but it may have come down anywhere between Sywell and Pitsford."

The machine was being tried out by Mr. Boys, who constructed it on new experimental lines and was giving it its first full flight.

"I began making it some time ago for a competition," he said, "but I did not complete it in time. Before launching it on Sunday it had flown for 2½ minutes, and on Sunday, when I first put it out it flew half way across the aerodrome."

"I launched it again—and it disappeared."

Mr. Boys was accompanied yesterday by members of the Northampton Model Aeroplane Club, of which he is secretary, and an intensive search was made for the model but without success.

The machine spans 40 inches across the wings, is about 36 inches long, and is constructed of Balsar wood and paper and driven by a rubber motor. It was launched on its last flight at about 4.5 p.m.

"I think the tremendous height it gained must have been due to unusually strong currents of warm, rising air," said Mr. Boys.

The present unofficial distance record for model aeroplanes is six miles and the unofficial flying time is half an hour.

MODEL PLANE DISAPPEARS.

Taken From Ground; Later Found Smashed.

CHILD'S EXPENSIVE PRANK.

The joyous events of the day were marred by a crash and the almost total destruction of a plane—but it was only a model one.

Among the guests at the party were members of the County Model Aeroplane Club, and one of these, Mr. Toseland, of Kettering, took with him a scale working model he had made of an S.E.5A.—an exact replica of the machine flown by Mr. Tommy Rose.

Mr. Toseland left his plane on the ground while he went to retrieve another model he had flown, and on his return found the S.E.5A. had been taken away.

Many inquiries and a long search failed to find the little aeroplane (about 24 ins. from tip to tail).

To-day the machine was found, smashed, in the garden of a Sywell cottage. It is believed that a child picked up the plane when Mr. Toseland was away from it, took it home, and either badly crashed it in trying to make it fly or broke it up as a disappointingly involved toy, too difficult for very young people to play with.

Anyway, only the propeller, the radiator and the motor stick of Mr. Toseland's skillfully made and valuable model, that must have taken many hours to build, remain unbroken.

FATE OF A MODEL PLANE

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THE scale model of a fighting plane lost by Mr. L. Toseland, of Kettering, at Sywell Aerodrome, on Sunday, has been traced.

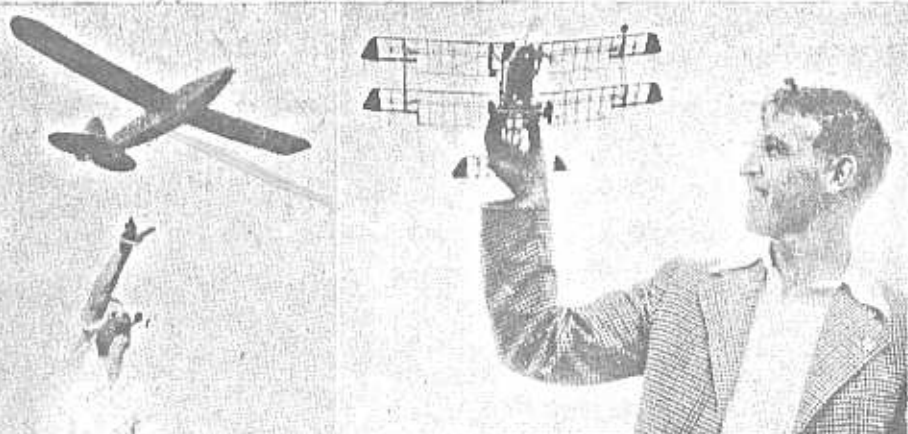
The model, which was 2ft. across the wings and valued at £5, was taken home by a little girl.

Her brother asked for it, there was a difference of opinion, the little girl took the model into the garden, stamped on it, and put the wings on the fire.

Display Exhibition, and Lecture

A display, exhibition and lecture in connection with Northampton model engineers were given at the Northampton College of Technology, and a demonstration of model aircraft flying was carried out. The evening's entertainment was under the direction of Mr. Howard Boys, of Weedon, aeromodeller, the lecture theatre being the scene of one of the most interesting talks that has been given in the history of the Northampton Model Engineers. Films of model and full-size aircraft in action, including one of the breaking-up of the airship R 100, and the last flight over Northampton of the ill-fated R 101 were shown. The attendance at the exhibition of model aircraft was most encouraging, credit being due to the organiser, Mr. J. H. M. Parsons, who was ably supported by various students.

Great attention was drawn to the fine high wing monoplane painted red and named Baron von Richthofen. This model was loaned by Captain Gordon Berry, the model maker of Flore. The machine was designed and built for him by Mr. Boys. A large number of machines were loaned by the Northamptonshire Model Aero Club.



"SPORT OF THE WEEK" with many interesting features was that provided at the Northamptonshire Model Aero Club's rally at Sywell Aerodrome when some marvellous flights were put up by ingenious machines made by members. On left is Captain Gordon Berry's reproduction of the famous German machine, the Red Baron of the air, built by Mr. Howard Boys, of Weedon (rally organiser). On right, Mr. L. Toseland is demonstrating a scale model of an S.E.5A. made entirely of Balsar wood, carved with a razor blade.

NORTHAMPTON INDEPENDENT



MR. HOWARD BOYS, of Weedon, secured third place in the National Cup Competition for model planes with the realistic machine (on left), built by himself.