

a piece of driftwood which he stood on end, leaning it against the fuselage. He then hooked one leg in the hatch and with the other he pushed on the driftwood. The tail skid had been placed on a block of snow so the ship was in flight position. It took a full minute, with wide open throttle and Wilkins straining every muscle, to break free from the ice. As the plane moved forward Wilkins pulled himself into the hatch and fell exhausted on the floor.

Minutes later, at a altitude of 3,000' the wireless towers of Spitzbergen were clearly visible, heralding the end of their journey. Since the gas supply was low the fliers chose to land at Green Harbor instead of King's Bay as they had originally planned. First to fly across the top of the world from North America to Europe, they had completed their 2,200 mile flight in 20 hours and 30 minutes. After receiving the very welcome warm hospitality of the residents of Green Harbor, Wilkins sent out the news of their safe arrival. A flood of congratulatory messages and honors came in response from all over the world, including knighthood for Capt. Wilkins, bestowed by the King of England.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

We have, sooner than expected, reached the point where we cannot accept any more members for this calendar year. We now have 173 paid members, and this together with the double subscriptions paid for by some members, copies to libraries, and sample copies sent to prospective members who did not join, has completely exhausted our supply of 200 Journals. This means, of course, that until such time as we have the money to undertake a complete re-printing of the first four issues there are no more copies available to anyone. If you value your copy, therefore, don't lose it, give it away etc., as it cannot be replaced at this time.

Complimentary copies of the Journal are now on file in seven libraries; the I.A.S. in N.Y. and Los Angeles; Air Britain, London; Royal Aeronautical Society, London; National Air Museum, Washington, D.C.; Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.; and the University of California at Berkeley.

Important: Please send your 1957 dues in as soon as possible, the final date is February 1st, 1957. Since the next Journal is due to be printed February 15th we must have the money to go ahead before it can be published. Please be reminded that all memberships expire on December 31st. This is done to eliminate as much book work as possible, and to eliminate any form of staggered membership that requires a personal reminder to each member etc. The dues remain at \$3.00, but please remember that we cannot put out four issues as thick as this one next year. This is larger because our No. 1 was thin by comparison, and has 14 more pages than No. 3.

We have much more material than can be squeezed into this issue, and again we want to thank the members for their cooperation in submitting articles. We would like to see articles from those of you who have not contributed anything so far, or at least a short letter containing information of interest to the membership.

Our special thanks to John Sloan and Warren Bodie for the outstanding report on McCook Field P Numbers which they prepared for this issue.

William T. Larkins, 26 November 1956