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MODEL PLANE FANS PREPPING FOR BIG CONTEST SATURDAY



Rivals--but brotherly, friendly, co-operative ones--are John and Kenneth Easton, 16 and 15, who share enthusiasm for model aircraft.



Tuning up plane engine for the big model aircraft contest on Saturday, sponsored by the T. Eaton Co., are, left to right: Frank Anderson, Betty Hickey, and Cecil Tate.

As John Easton recalls: Cec Tate and his buddy (last name Packer) decided to open dual Hobby Shops when they left the Air Force after WWII. His buddy Packer was in the vicinity of Vancouver. Thus the name TP Hobbies (formerly on Roncesvalles).

The newspaper article...

It's "Wonderful Hobby" Keeps Young Folk Busy

John and Kenneth Easton, New Toronto model enthusiasts, have been friendly rivals since they entered rubber-powered planes in competitions. This year John is 16 and no longer a junior competitor. While his brother remains in that category.

Together with hundreds of other local model aircraft fans, the brothers are putting the finishing touches to planes entered in the first big competition of the season – The T. Eaton Company model aircraft contest at DeHavilland Airport next Saturday.

From 25 – cent rubber –powered models made when John was in fourth grade—The brothers now attend Mimico High – their operations now cover a large room in their Lakeshore rd. home. More than 20 complete aircraft, powered by rubber, gasoline engine, diesel engine and carbon dioxide capsules, hang from the ceiling, and fill the shelves and floor of the room.

HAVE JARGON OF OWN

Like all their fellow-competitors, the Eastons speak a jargon of their own when talking about their hobby. Thrust and horsepower, dope and dihedral angles are some of the words and they scan the sky with more care than pilots of full-size aircraft for signs of good flying weather, for a stiff breeze can put an end to any thought of model flying. All their outdoor meets are dependent on the weather, for the wrong kind of an air current can destroy the careful work of many months.

John, who represented his club at the international meet in Michigan last year, has entries in every class except one—the jets—at Saturday's meet. Neither of the brothers has a high opinion of model jet planes in their present form. Most of their aircraft are powered by one-cylinder gasoline engines about 2 inches high, which develop one –sixth of a horsepower and cost around \$15.

The Eastons, sons of a doctor at Ontario Hospital in New Toronto, finance their hobby by raising and selling golden hamsters. Their workshop is filled nightly with friends in the neighborhood working on planes and engines.

“It's a wonderful hobby for young boys,” said Mrs. Norman Easton. “They don't have time to get into trouble. They've even made an enthusiast out of me.”

GATHERING POINT

Cecil Tate's combination hobby shop and shoe repair business at 2203 Bloor St. west, is also a busy place these days. For three years it has been an informal, unofficial clubhouse for model aircraft builders. Cecil sells the materials and gives advice on building. In the opinion of the group which meets there to argue the respective merits of their craft. Cecil can fix just about anything.

Cecil picked up a small fragile-looking model about six inches long. He wound the rubber bands which supplied motive power to the balsa wood propeller and then released it inside the shop. As it flew in tight circles, gaining altitude steadily, Cecil said, “that's the 25 cent model. The cheapest and smallest model aircraft. Anyone can make it in a few hours, but it usually means just the beginning. From this model you go to a bigger one and finally end up a confirmed model fan with a couple of hundred dollars tied up in equipment.”

Cecil's boys range in age from 15 to 18. Most of them are high school students and have been at it for four or five years. It's an interesting study and has led many an addict to go to full-size airplanes.

The airplanes which owners are frantically tuning up for the big show Saturday fall into four main classes—rubber powered, gasoline, jet, CO2 capsule and there is a glider class for towed engineless craft. Competitors are divided into senior, over 16, and junior, under 16. There are two types of powered flight —free flight and control line. With free-flying planes, points are awarded for time in the air and with control lines for the maneuvers they can perform. For each first place, competitors are given five points, second, four points, and down to one point for fifth place. There is a grand championship trophy for the senior and junior champion and a \$50 cash prize for each.