Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. As we open our Reference Room of the air this morning, we have some interesting questions to answer. What is the first one, Bob?

R.C. One person wants to know how to spell PALOOKA, also what it means.

M.L. Your guess is as good as mine about the spelling, what do you say?


M.L. Correct, if we use Weeem's Dictionary Of American Slang as the authority. The word is not given in any of the standard dictionaries.

R.C. What does it mean?

M.L. That depends on where one uses it. In college it means a mediocre person. In boxing and prize fighting it refers to a poor fighter. A worthless hand in a card game is also called a palooka.

R.C. Most of the hands I get are palookas then. Here is another question that one other listener wants answered. What is the address of the magazine called Hobbies, and what is the cost per year?

M.L. Hobbies, the magazine for collectors is published at 2810 South Michigan avenue in Chicago. It costs $2.00 a year.

R.C. Just what kind of a magazine is this?

M.L. Anyone who has a natural craving to collect will like this magazine. It has sections on all the obvious items such as stamps, coins, dishes, books, dolls and other usual material. I picked up, the July 1938 issue the other day at the library. It contains articles on many unusual items which people collect. Over in Michigan is a Mr. Frank Walker who collects radiator emblems and nameplates. In the beginning name plates on motor cars were nothing more than a continuance of the number plates that were used on buggies and carriages. Mr. Walker started to find an interesting one to
use to make an ash tray. He found so many interesting ones that he decided to make a collection. He now has over 500 of these name plates.

R.C. A collection like that should give a complete history of the automobile in America.

M.L. That is just what Mr. Walker says. He also has made a study of the metals used to manufacture these plates.

In this same issue of Hobbies is an article by Earl T. Goodnow on Old Bells. People really collect them, too. Among the bells sought today are those of the early locomotive type by collectors of railroad items, the farm or plantation type by those having a farm or country place with a shed or barn on which to place it. There are other collectors who collect all types of bells as a hobby. Collectors know Paul Revere not as a famous rider but as a maker of fine quality bells. The Meneely Bell Company is the oldest established bell foundry in the United States. Among their many notable productions are the four highest sets of bells in the world. They are in the Metropolitan and Consolidated Gas buildings in New York City and the Roanoke and Straus buildings in Chicago.

Some of the inscriptions found on bells are very interesting. These words in whole or in part are often found on both old and new bells: "I praise the true God, I call the people, I convene the clergy, I bewail the dead, I dispel the pestilence, I grace the festival, I bemoan the burial, I abate the lightning, I announce the Sabbath, I arouse the slothful, I scatter the winds, and I appease the revengeful. On a bell in Derbyshire appears these Words, "Mankind like me are often found, possessed of naught but empty sound."

Mr. Goodnow, the author of this article on bells, in the Hobbies magazine suggests that a very fine book on bells is one called,
Bells, their history, legends, making and uses by Satis N. Coleman.

I found this little book standing in its rightful place on the shelf at the library. It is indeed a fascinating account of bells. Whether one is a collector or not, this book makes entertaining and informative reading. Ask for it sometime.

R.C. Instead of just talking about bells lets hear some lovely bells by electrical transcription.

MUSIC - BELLS OF ST MARY'S

M.L. We have been talking about hobbies. A very scientific hobby is avigation. Tommmorrow the state air tour comes to Eau Claire. This is sponsored by the Wisconsin Chapter of the National Aeronautic Association.

R.C. We have been hearing about this tour for several weeks, just what is the purpose of it?

M.L. It is an educational and good will tour planned to show new ships and to promote an interest in flying. There is no admittance charge to the fields where the tour stops and everyone is invited to inspect the various planes. The tour began at Manitowoc at 10 A. M. Monday, going from there to Milwaukee for luncheon, then to Waukesha, and to Racine for the night. Yesterday the schedule included Janesville, Madison and Lake Dalton. Today the party will visit Fond du Lac, Oshkosh, Appleton, and spend tonight in Wausau. Tomorrow forenoon the planes will arrive here and remain for lunch, after which the tour will proceed to Wisconsin Dells where the group will disband. Mr. Ward asked me to extend a very cordial invitation to everyone to visit the airport tomorrow.

Mr. and Mrs. Ward are flying in their Piper Cub light plane as is Mr. L. A. Hurd from Eau Claire. Also from here are Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Hamilton in a Cessna four place cabin job.
Among the prominent pilots in this year's tour are Mr. Howard Morey, chairman of the state of Wisconsin aeronautical commission and Mr. Steve Whittman of Oshkosh. Mr. Whittman won third place in the Thompson Trophy race at Cleveland.

R.C. Since the flight of Howard Hughes and Douglas Corrigan this summer there has been a renewed interest in famous flights, it seems to me.

M.L. In the card catalog at the library we have a subject heading, Aeronautics - Flights. The titles of those books read like a history of adventure. In 1927 Lowell Thomas made a twenty-five thousand mile tour of Europe by air. He said most people thought he was a freak to attempt such a trip. In did make the trip and lived to write a very interesting account of it which he called, European Skyways. He said that people back in those days were about as eager to leave the ground as the poet laureate of Texas. He gazed wide-eyed at the cadets training for the Army Air Service at Kelley Field and then went home and wrote this poem. Bob, do you want to read the darky's no uncertain words.

R.C. 'Corse I ain't saying I won't do
Jes' what mah country want me to,
But dere's one job dat I forsee
Ain't gwine tuh 'tach itself tuh me.

Uh! Uh! not me!

Dat's dis hyah ahplane stuff - no, boss,
I'll bear some udder kind of cross
Lak dribe a mule or tote a gun,
But I ain't flirtin' wid de sun.

Uh! Uh! not me!
If I mus' do a loop-de-loop
It's gwine be roun' some chicken coop;
Not up yonder whar de crows
Kin say I'se trompin' on der toes.
   Uh! Uh! not me!

It shoh looks nice, I don't deny,
To go a-oozin' roun' de sky,
But dat's fo' folks what's in de mood
To pass up luv, and gin and food.
   Uh! Uh! not me!

Down heah I firs' seen light o' day,
Down heah is whar I'se gwine tuh stay.
Folks, I don't care to hab mah feet
Git too blamed proud to walk de street.
   Uh! Uh! not me!

So I'll jes' wait till Gabriel brings
Dem good ole-fashun angel wings,
An' as I pass de aiplane by,
In pity I'll look down and sigh
   Uh! Uh! Not Me!

M.L. Not everyone felt as the poet for many notable flights were
made since 1927. Skyward by Richard E. Byrd published in 1928
gives the life of the author, his thrilling adventures, his
North Pole flight and his trans-Atlantic flight, together with
his plans for conquering the Antarctic by air. Little America,
Discovery, and Exploring With Byrd are his other books which tell
of achievements in the air.

In 1931 Wiley Post wrote Around The World In Eight Days
which tells of his flight with Harold Gatty in the Winnie Mae.
Other stories of adventurous flights are Sky Gypsey by Claudia Cranston which describes 25,000 miles by flying clipper ships over South America, Central America, Mexico, and the Caribbean.

The record of 60,000 miles by airplane over the big game country of Africa is told by Martin Elmer Johnson in Over African Jungles.

Edward Alexander Powell has been everywhere and done everything. Every one of his travel books is as interesting as the titles - Beyond the Utmost Purple Rim, Yonder Lies Adventure, The Map That Is Half Unrolled, By Camel And Car To The Peacock Throne. His latest story is called Aerial Odyssey which is an account of flying over Central And South America.

The outstanding literary gem of all the books on famous flights is North To The Orient by Anne Morrow Lindbergh. She says there is a fundamental magic of flying. "It is a magic which one experiences standing in front of serene Madonnas or listening to cool chorales, or even reading one of those clear passages in a book - so clear and so illuminating that one feels the writer has given the reader a glass-bottomed bucket with which to look through the ruffled surface of life far down to that still permanent world below.....And if flying, like a glass-bottomed bucket, can give you that vision, that seeing eye, which peers down to the still world below the choppy waves-it will always remain magic."

I mustn't forget to mention two other books which every air-minded person will find helpful - The Aircraft Year Book for 1937, and Aircraft And The Air. Both are available at the library.

R.C. It's almost time to close the Reference Room Of The Air for another week. Before the doors close on this program, speaking for Miss Langdell and myself may we invite you to mail in any
reference question which you would like answered on this program. Just address your requests to The Library Speaks Program, in care of WEAU or directly to the Eau Claire Public Library. W.L. The staff of the Eau Claire Public Library wishes you all a pleasant week.