

# Columbian Air "Ace" To Make 4,653 Mile Air Journey Home



Lieut. Benjamin Mendez (above), Colombian youth who came to the United States four years ago to fulfill his ambition of becoming a flier, is ready for a return to his home in Bogota, Colombia, by air. His hydroplane, christened the "Ricaurte" in honor of Colombia's great hero, is ready to be launched for the 4,653 mile flight from New York to Colombia.

NEW YORK, Nov. 17, (AP)—Lieut. Benjamin Mendez, youthful Colombian flier who came to the United States four years ago to learn to fly, is ready for a triumphant return to his home republic by air.

No flight since Lindbergh's Latin American tour has fired the interest of Colombian air enthusiasts so much as the projected 4,653 mile hydroplane flight of the south American republic's native son. Colombian newspapers are already hailing young Mendez as the republic's "Lindbergh" and a hero's welcome awaits him at Bogota, his home.

Although now commissioned as a lieutenant in the Colombian air service, Mendez came to the United States in April, 1924, when he became restless over the limited opportunities to learn to fly in his home land. His long flight, which is to be made in five days, will carry him back to his Colombian friends and relatives for the first time since he set out for the United States to become a pilot.

Lieutenant Mendez plans to hop off from New York, weather permitting, November 17 on the first leg of the flight which will carry him along the Atlantic seaboard to Jacksonville, Fla., a distance of 850 miles without stop. The second stop lies 775 miles south of Havana, Cuba, with the third leg over an 800 mile stretch to Puerto Barrios, Panama, the fourth station, is 978 miles from Puerto Barrios, with the last lap of the long flight an 1,150 mile jump to Bogota, Colombia.

With the utmost confidence in his Curtiss Falcon hydroplane, especially built for him at the expense of the Colombian republic, Lieutenant Mendez hopes to complete his homeward journey in 40 hours of actual flying. The trip may be extended over more than a week's time, depending upon weather conditions.

"It is not the shortest route which I might map out for return by air over a water route, but it is the safest," the youthful flier says. "It may, I hope, show the way to the establishment of a direct transport route from New York to Bogota that would join the two republics more closely. Safety is the most important factor in the development of regular air routes, and although it would be more spectacular to try it non-stop, the flight might not be so valuable."

His plane, christened the "Ricaurte" in memory of the great Colombian hero, is similar in de-

sign to the army falcons which Lieutenant Mendez became accustomed to flying in the United States air service. It has been equipped with pontoons, however, making possible water landings and providing space for an additional supply of 165 gallons of gasoline.

Powered with a D-12 motor, the plane is capable of flying 150 miles an hour with a light load and between 140 and 145 miles an hour with a full load. Because the plane is exceptionally fast Lieutenant Mendez hopes to make the 4,653 mile trip in less than 40 hours.

Five sisters, two brothers and his father will wait the homecoming of young Mendez, who left them almost five years ago to become a flier. He entered the United States army flying school at San Antonio, Tex., in April, 1924, and a year later was given his "wings." After two years in the United States he was recognized by his home government, and arrangements were made with the state department to permit him to visit the important army and navy air centers in the United States.

### BRAZIL HOPES TO MEET DEMAND FOR WHEAT

PORTO ALEGRE, Brazil, Nov. 17, (AP)—Within a few years Brazil will be able to produce all the wheat needed for home consumption, in the opinion of Senior Getulio Vargas, governor of the state of Rio Grande do Sul.

It is pointed out that this section possesses the proper soil and climate for successful wheat farming, and that as an exporter of wheat it gained considerable importance more than a century ago. Even in 1770 Rio Grande exported wheat and flour to both Portugal and Argentina, as much as 24,000 tons of wheat and several thousand barrels of flour going to the mother country.

As a result of a campaign conducted by the governor and other officials, the state produced 68 per cent of the wheat needed for local consumption last year. The area of available wheat land is large. Seed selection, together with larger cultivation is expected to make Rio Grande again an exporter.

E. E. Smith of Santa Rosa, Cal., is in Vegas yesterday and today, the guest of D. Binkhorst.

## ADVENTURE LOVE WAS AIRPLANE INSPIRATION

By W. E. BERCHTOLD  
(Associated Press Aviation Editor)  
DAYTON, O., Nov. 17, (AP)—Sporting blood, love of adventure and a keen desire to "make something out of nothing" was in a large measure responsible for the Wright brothers' experiments with airplanes, which finally resulted, 25 years ago, in the first human flight with a power-driven heavier-than-air machine.

"We began our tinkering and experimenting for the pure sport of the thing, never hoping or even entertaining a thought that we might make a penny profit," recalled Orville Wright, who actually piloted the plane, which he had developed with his brother, the late Wilbur Wright, on its first successful flight at Kitty Hawk, N. C., in 1903.

"We thought it would be great sport to build something capable of carrying us aloft, and even as boys we kept building our kites bigger and bigger, hoping we might get one big enough to support us in flight.

"After we had flown successfully at Kitty Hawk both Wilbur and I often talked of the possibilities of flying as the greatest of all sports, one that would eclipse auto racing and other sports in which men indulged for the joy of the thing.

"It has really been very disappointing to me to realize that sportsmen have failed to take to flying as a sport. The military and commercial branches of flying have developed beyond our early expectations in many ways, but the last 25 years have seen little real interest in flying as a civilian sport. This is a phase of aviation which I hope will enjoy greater development in the future.

Gliding, while of no practical value, he says, is also a great sport, deserving of more popularity as a pastime. But there is little interest in gliding in America. Some attention has been given it in Europe in recent years, however.

"The last time I visited the scene of our first flights at Kitty Hawk was in 1911, when I went there to do some gliding with an English companion on vacation. It is a fascinating sport that should grip any true sportsman once he has tried it.

"Helicopters, the oldest form of flying, are good sport, but they should not be looked upon to revolutionize flight. They are worthy of devoted attention as a sport, but it seems unfortunate to expect too much from them."

Mr. Wright has been a lover of the out-of-doors since boyhood and still spends several months each year on his private island in Georgian bay, Canada, fishing, boating and generally enjoying the life. The press of other business made it necessary for him to return to his Dayton laboratories early this autumn after only two months at his Georgian bay retreat.

## SEEK TO AMEND RHODES TRUST

The Rhodes Trustees announce that they are promoting a bill in Parliament enlarging the powers conferred upon them under the will of Mr. Cecil Rhodes. The principal purpose of the bill will be to enable them to give effect to a proposal which has been made by an overwhelming majority of old American Rhodes scholars, supported by a similar majority of the leading authorities in education, including the members of the Association of American Universities, the Association of Urban Universities, and the Association of American Colleges. That proposal is that for the purpose of choosing the thirty-two scholarships annually appropriated under the will to the United States, the country should be divided into eight districts of six states each, with a competition held in every state every year instead of in only two years out of every three as at present. Each state selection committee would be allowed to nominate one or two scholars to appear before the regional selection committee. Each regional selection committee would then appoint from among the candidates they sent forward, the best four. This method would ensure a geographical distribution of the scholarships among the different parts of the United States approximately as at present, though it would no longer guarantee to every state

has tried it.

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Asked whether he does any work at his Georgian bay home, he replies: "Oh, nothing of any importance," and then smiling adds without further explanation, "I'm still tinkering, trying to make something out of nothing."

## SALVATION ARMY OFFICER SPEAKS

Past Captain of the Southern District of the Salvation Army N. Kobayashi, will speak at the morning service of the Baptist Church tomorrow, according to the announcement of the pastor, Rev. Sloan, today.

The public is cordially invited to attend.

An equal number of appointments, but it would fit in far better with the academic system of the country, would make selection easier, and tend to insure that all candidates chosen were of the highest standard.

The bill proposes to give to the trustees discretion to organize the distribution and tenure of scholarships in the United States as they may from time to time consider will better fulfill the purposes of the testator, and to create a capital reserve fund behind the scholarship system.

The Catholic Women's Club will give a Food and Parcel Post sale next Saturday, November 24, in the room formerly occupied by the Sanderson barber shop on Fremont street. The parcels will be sold at 25 cents each, "unsight, unseen."

## WANT ADS

WANTED—A good cook stove at a reasonable price. Call at 509 South Fourth 12pd

WANTED—A school girl to take care of small child and help with housework. Mrs. Gildenes, 649 South Third Street. 18

FOR SALE—Five burner Perfection oil range, with built-in oven. Good condition. Apply Age office. 17

FOR RENT — Nicely furnished three room duplex, with bath and breakfast alcove. Gas stove, water heater and radiant fire. Garage included. 126 No. Seventh St. Sidewalk all the way to town. Ideal for couple. Rent \$50.00. 17

## OVERTON HIGH NEWS NOTES

By MISS MARY GRIFFITH

(Editor's Note: The following items are not by our regular Moapa Valley correspondent, but as they were of general interest we were glad to print them.)

High School students have listened to some interesting programs this year. Among them have been a discourse by Beulah Conger and Mack Lyon, entitled "Don't Get Comical," and a song by Dora Chadburn and Roxie Frehner, who sang "I Can't Do Without You," dressed as negroes.

Miss Grace Farrell spent the week-end with her parents at Kelso, California.

Mary Griffith wants to know where Las Vegas gets the idea they are baseball champions of Southern Nevada. Overton played 4 games, losing one and winning three. Percentage .750.

Las Vegas has played but two, both with Overton, winning one and losing one. Percentage .500. Figure it out for yourself.

The Overton boys have started basketball practice, and expect to have a team as good as last year's. Miss Mary Griffith spent the week-end with Miss Mona Kay in Las Vegas.

Mrs. R. B. Stuart, of Moapa arrived home after a short stay in Los Angeles.

The citizens of Overton were badly scared this morning and ran for their cyclone cellars, but returned to their homes upon the discovery that the commotion was only Harry (Hobbes) Griffith on his way to school in his prehistoric flier.

City Commissioner Roy Neagle returned Thursday from a trip to San Francisco.

## AWAKE!



### Awake Thou

That sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light.

Ephesians 6:14

### COME TO

### Westside Mission

The Little Mission With a Big Vision SUNDAY, NOV. 18th

—SPLENDID MUSIC—

EVERYBODY WELCOME

F. C. Moreno, Pastor.

## J.C. PENNEY CO.

18 FREMONT STREET LAS VEGAS, NEVADA

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You Find QUALITY as Well as Low Prices

## Heavy Weight

Rope-Knit Sweaters

Warm, durable rope-knit sweaters with the popular shawl collar. Extra heavy weight for comfort and service—full cut and well shaped for smart appearance.

These sweaters are made of all wool. The value is there.

\$2.98



### Mackinaws

For Outdoor Workers



Made of 34 ounce wool, oxford grey Western Mackinaw cloth. Pockets and cuffs trimmed with leather.

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### Leather

Vests for Men



30 inches long. Body of best selected sheep grain leather, sleeves of genuine front quarter horsehide.

\$9.90

### Fancy Flannel

Shirts



Made of finest quality all-wool shirting, in bright, attractive patterns. Exceptional at—

\$3.98

### Night Shirts

For Men Of Amoskeag teasedown, full cut, with silk frogs. \$1.49

### Khaki Flannel

Shirts



Made of durable khaki flannel. Cut full and roomy for comfort. Has double elbows and two army flap pockets. REAL VALUE, at—

\$1.98

## SPECIAL

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### RUBBER HEELS FREE

with each Half Sole job, for ONE WEEK ONLY

Beginning Monday, November 19

Bring your old shoes and have them repaired like new, by an expert shoe rebuilder. Quality and superior workmanship assured.

It pays to have your shoes repaired and it pays to have it done by

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### The Perfect Gift

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Those Beautiful 25 Piece Yellow Breakfast Sets

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Hurry if you want one.

### Las Vegas Pharmacy

W. E. FERRON, Manager

### newcomers

to the West are

amazed

at

it



Recent arrivals in the West, particularly, should write for the "Sweet Sixteen" Recipe Packet—presented in a new, convenient form—to fit your file or your cook book. Newcomers, too, should be sure to get acquainted at once with Ghirardelli's Ground Chocolate—different...one form of chocolate, equally delicious for all uses. For the Recipe Packet, write to D. Ghirardelli Co., San Francisco, Cal. For the Chocolate, "say Gearardelli" to any grocer.



GHIRARDELLI'S GROUND CHOCOLATE