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Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum Archives

US Women in Aviation 1940-1985 Research Materials - Toby Felker

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Indianapolis Municipal Airport. And there were Betty Coll? I believe there were just 3 gals and I believe there were just 30 in class. That would mean the other 27 were men. You did not have to be a senior, all you had to do was be 18, ~~you had to~~ you had to ~~pass~~ pass your physical, and pay 40 dollars. ~~and then~~ and then ~~of course~~ of course we had ground school as well as flight ~~school~~ ^{training} and had the Taylor craft which was little different, a lot of the other people who took early flight training were doing it in the Cubs, the Piper Cubs. ~~[[?]]~~ The Taylor craft, ~~[[crossed-out]]~~ was ~~[[crossed-out]]~~ (you the instructor were seated) a side by side as opposed to tandem

D AND ~~[[crossed-out]]~~ SO YOU STARTED ~~[[crossed-out]]~~ THIS WAS IN ~~[[crossed-out]]~~ WHICH YEAR ~~[[crossed-out]]~~ 1941?

F Yes, 1941

D ~~[[crossed-out]]~~ AND THEN ~~[[crossed-out]]~~ AFTER YOU FINISHED THIS PROGRAM WAS THIS ALSO WHEN YOU ~~[[crossed-out]]~~ ALSO ~~[[crossed-out]]~~ GRADUATED FROM COLLEGE?

Yes, That was it, so then I went back to Detroit. ~~[[crossed-out]]~~ and ~~[[crossed-out]]~~ My parents were very much against my flying, but they had allowed me to ~~[[crossed-out]]~~ do ~~[[crossed-out]]~~ take this training

D WHY DO YOU THINK THIS WAS SO?

They were afraid. In the first place, I did not pass the flight test, that's why I never did get the license. So they were sure I was not capable. And it was just dangerous. Of course, I had lost a lot of confidence in myself in not being able to do it so I went along with ~~[[crossed-out]]~~ it ~~[[crossed-out]]~~ my parents and ~~[[crossed-out]]~~ I ~~[[crossed-out]]~~ got a good job.

D DOING WHAT?

~~[[crossed-out]]~~ I'll tell you, ~~[[crossed-out]]~~ first I started out doing legal secretary work in Detroit and then, since I ~~[[crossed-out]]~~ had gone ~~[[crossed-out]]~~ ~~[[keep?]]~~ to Stephens College, I ~~[[crossed-out]]~~ and ~~[[crossed-out]]~~ went down there as a representative of our local club. ~~[[crossed-out]]~~ and ~~[[crossed-out]]~~ They needed some one in PR department, so I had a marvelous job in public relations at Stephens College

D WASN'T STEPHENS COLLEGE WAS DOING SOME VERY INTERESTING ~~[[crossed-out]]~~ MATERIALS ~~[[crossed-out]]~~ PROGRAMS IN AVIATION AT THIS TIME?

F They ~~[[crossed-out]]~~ did ~~[[crossed-out]]~~ were.

WHAT CAN YOU TELL ABOUT THAT?

I tell you who I wish was still alive is Margaret Wakefield, she was the one who told me that this thing was going on and for me to get

Indianapolis Municipal Airport. And there were Betty Coll? ^{3 gals and} I believe there were just 30 in class, ^{that would mean the other} 27 were men. You did not have to be a senior, all you had to do, be 18, ^{you had to} pass your physical, pay 40 dollars, ^{and then} of course we had ground school as well as flight ^{training} school and had the Taylor craft which was little different, a lot of the other people who took early flight training were doing it in the Cubs, ^{Piper Cubs.}

The Taylor craft ^{was a} side by side as opposed to tandem

AND SO YOU STARTED THIS, IN WHICH YEAR? 41?

1941

AND THEN AFTER YOU FINISHED THIS PROGRAM WAS THIS, WHEN YOU ~~ABSO-~~ GRADUATED FROM COLLEGE?

That was it, then I went back to Detroit and ^{my} parents were very much against my flying, they had allowed me to ^{do this} ~~do this~~

WHY DO YOU THINK THIS WAS SO?

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They did

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