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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 your physical, and pay 40 dollars.~~ pass your physical, and pay 40 dollars. ~~and then~~ of course we had ground school as well as flight ~~school~~ training. We ~~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,~~ The Taylor craft, ~~was~~ was (you the instructor were seated) a side by side as opposed to tandem

D AND ~~SO YOU STARTED~~ THIS WAS IN ~~WHICH YEAR~~ 1941?

F Yes, 1941

D ~~AND THEN~~ AFTER YOU FINISHED THIS PROGRAM WAS THIS ALSO WHEN YOU ~~ALSO GRADUATED FROM COLLEGE?~~

Yes, That was it, so then I went back to Detroit. ~~and~~ My parents were very much against my flying, but they had allowed me to ~~do~~ 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 ~~it~~ my parents and ~~I~~ got a good job.

D DOING WHAT?

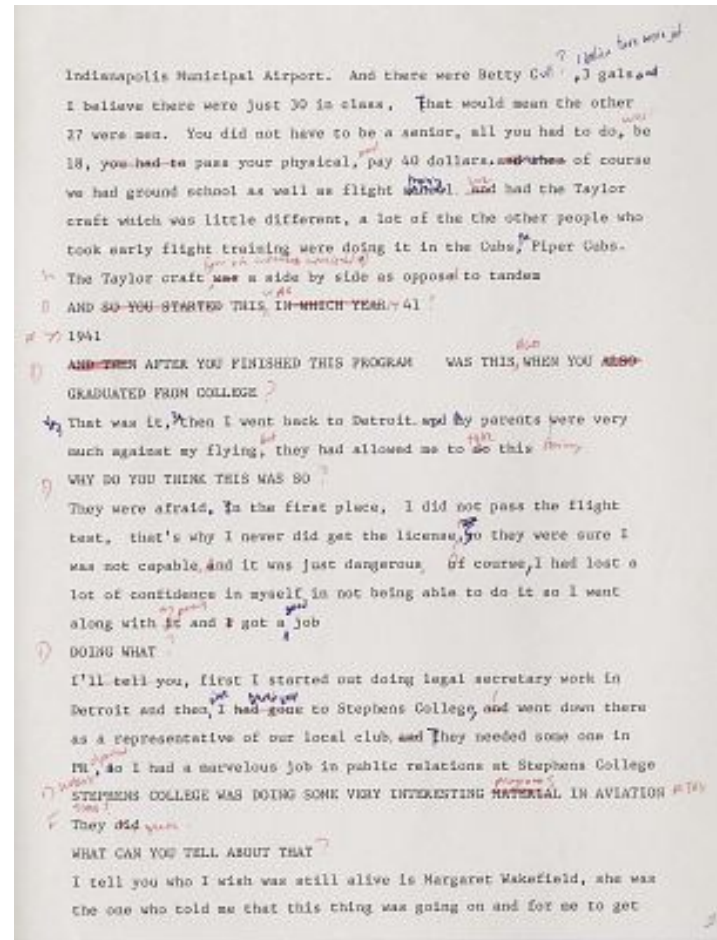
~~I'll tell you,~~ I'll tell you, ~~first I started out doing legal secretary work in Detroit and then, since I had gone to Stephens College, I and went down there as a representative of our local club.~~ first I started out doing legal secretary work in Detroit and then, since I had gone ~~to Stephens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

F They ~~did~~ 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



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