

# They Had What It Takes

## XXIV—"JACKIE" COCHRAN—ACE WOMAN SKY RACER

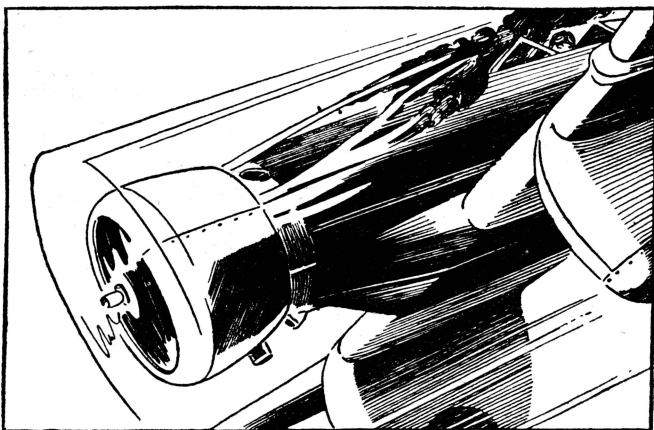
By ALDEN McWILLIAMS



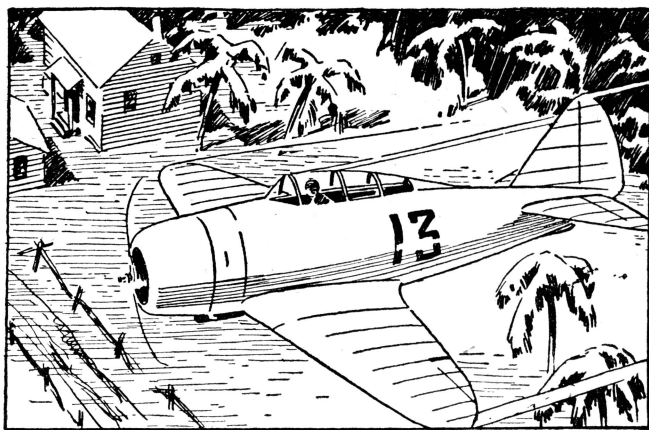
1—Left an orphan soon after her birth at Pensacola, Fla., in 1909, Jacqueline Cochran worked in a beauty parlor at the age of 11, took up nursing at 14, and became a graduate nurse at 19. Next, she came north and took a position in a beauty salon in New York City. Then, in 1932, aviation attracted her—and she learned to fly in only 2½ weeks!



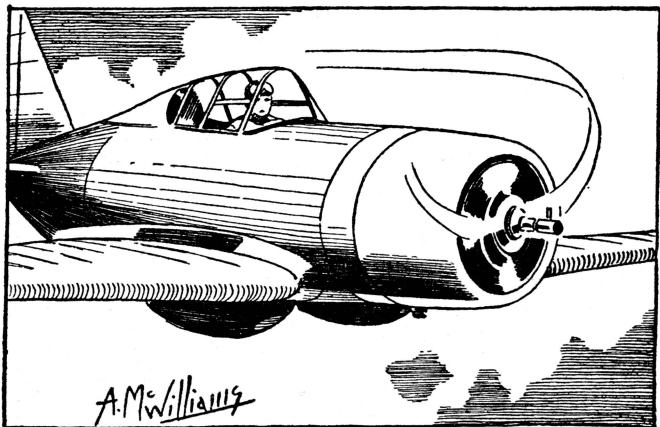
2—Jackie then bought a Travel Air—and cracked up in it when its motor failed on a take-off! But that didn't discourage her. "I'll get into air racing!" she decided. And financially backed by Floyd Odum, her future husband, she entered the Gee-Bee Q.E.D. in the London-to-Australia dash of 1934. On this effort, Wesley Smith was her co-pilot.



3—Unfortunately, she was forced out of that sky grind near Bucharest, Rumania, when her stabilizer broke. Still she wouldn't give up her racing ambitions, though meanwhile further bad luck dogged her. She had to drop out of the '35 Bendix race in Arizona, and in '36 she just managed to land safely in her Northrop that had caught fire at 8,000 feet.



4—Then in '37 things clicked for Jackie! She chalked up a new woman's speed record of 293 m.p.h., flew from New York to Miami in 4 hrs. 12 min. to better Howard Hughes' time by 8 min., and into the bargain took third in the Bendix race in which she was the only woman flyer! As 1937's outstanding aviatrix, she was awarded the General Mitchell Trophy.



5—And last September, Jacqueline Cochran soared to new heights. Pitted against nine expert male flyers in the gruelling Bendix classic, she neatly copped first place in the Los Angeles-to-Cleveland dash, then roared her sleek Seversky on to the East Coast for an added transcontinental prize. This brought Jackie's total race "take" to \$12,500!



6—"Stick to your ambition until you win!" With that motto, Jacqueline Cochran "sparked" her climb to aviation's Hall of Fame. What's more, Jackie has also done wonders with that same motto in the business world. For entirely "on her own" she's built up an important cosmetic trade. And in her workaday life she flies from city to city to promote it.