

They Had What It Takes

XLI—"LON" YANCEY—ACE AVIGATOR

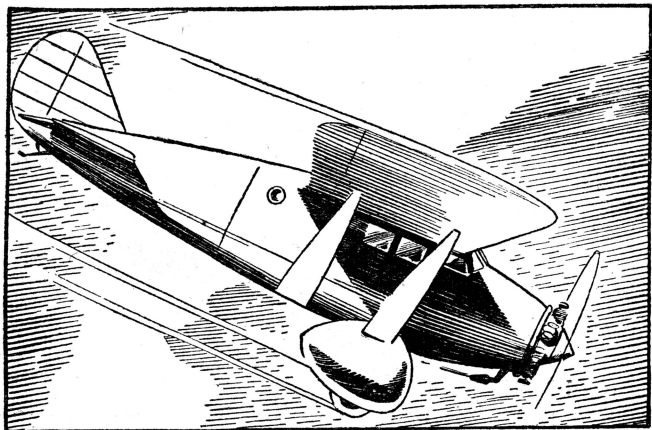
By ALDEN McWILLIAMS



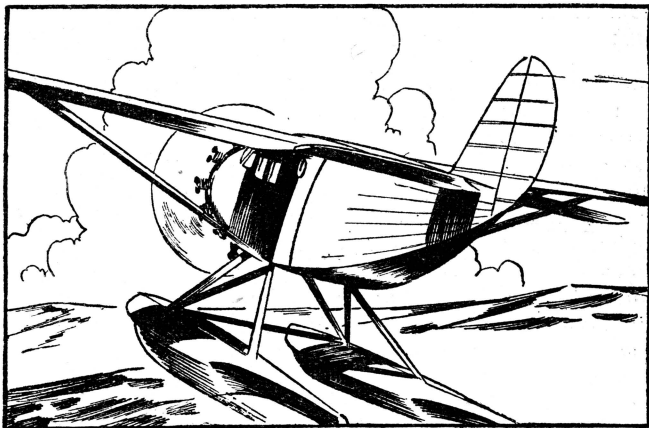
1—Born in Chicago on September 16, 1895, Lewis Alonzo Yancey completed a public high school course, then went on to study law and English. He enlisted in the United States Navy in 1911 and remained in service until his retirement in 1921. "Lon" was one of the best rifle shots in our sea-arm. Then in 1925 he joined the United States Coast Guard.



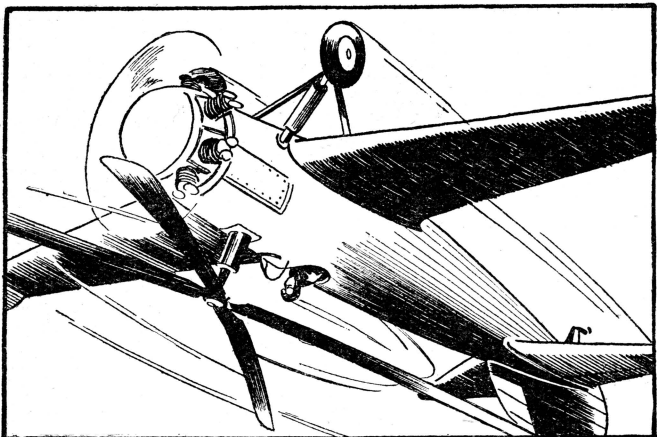
2—Early in 1926, while at sea with the C.G.ers, Lon became interested in aviation—primarily in avigation which was to become the major pursuit of his aero career. His sea experiences, he found, aided him in mastering flying problems. And because of the complete knowledge of avigation he developed, Lon was in great demand among the ocean-hopping pilots.



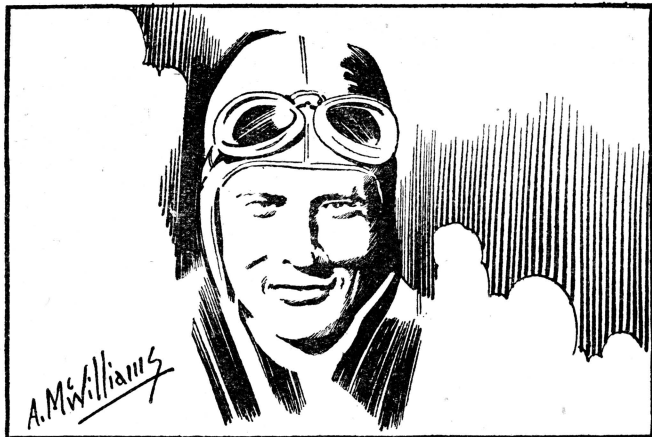
3—Captain Yancey and Pilot Roger Q. Williams took off on July 8, 1927, from Old Orchard Beach, Me., in the *Bellanca Pathfinder* for a flight to Rome. Thirty-one hours after taking off, the plane made an emergency landing in Spain. They then flew on to their original destination, where they were accorded greetings almost as fervent as those given Lindbergh.



4—The next year Lon, Pilot Bill Alexander, and Zeh Bouck made another Atlantic flight, this time to Bermuda. They set a precedent on this sea hop by being the first men to spend a night on the ocean and then taking off again under their ship's own power. The plane, which was equipped with pontoons, flew into Hamilton Harbor early the next morning.



5—Lon's next exciting exploit came in the Spring and Summer of 1930 when he flew down the east coast of South America and back up the west coast. Later, he became interested in the autogiro and was reputedly the only pilot ever to loop one. In 1938 he again practiced his expert avigation when he accompanied Richard Archbold, air explorer, to New Guinea.



6—Captain Yancey died at his home in Yonkers, N. Y., on March 2, and was buried in the Arlington National Cemetery. He had received decorations from the Pope, Italy's King Victor Emanuel and Benito Mussolini, also King Albert of Belgium. Moreover, he received a medal from our Navy for his meteorology work in the World War. We hail the memory of Lon Yancey!