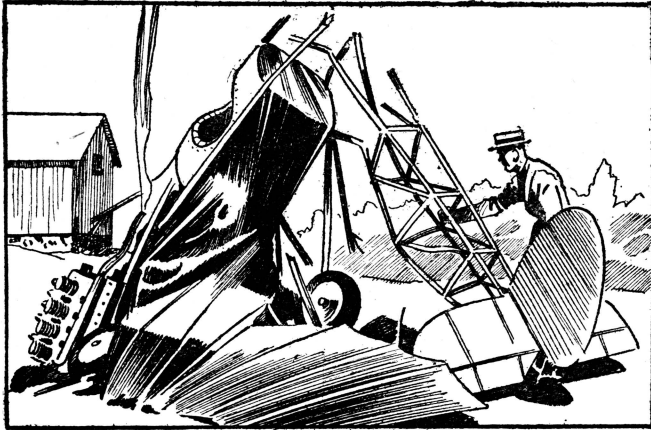


They Had What It Takes

XXXVIII—GROVER LOENING—DYNAMIC DESIGNER

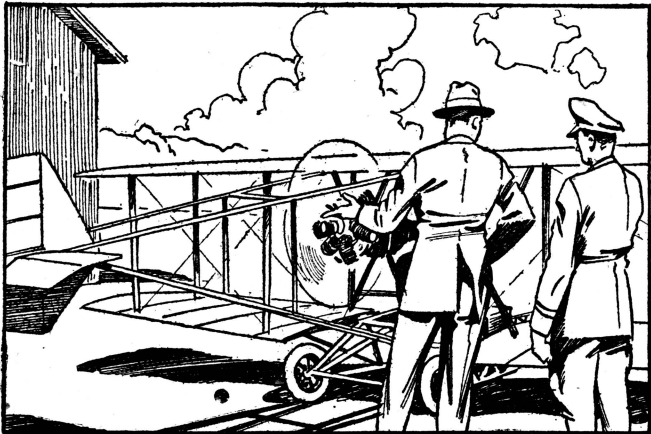
By ALDEN McWILLIAMS



1—Born at the United States consulate in Bremen, Germany, on September 12, 1888, Grover Cleveland Loening spent much of his spare time building model airplanes. In 1908, at the age of 20, his mother took him to see a real airplane. Despite the fact that the crate crashed, young Loening decided, as he surveyed the wreckage, to become an aeronautical engineer.



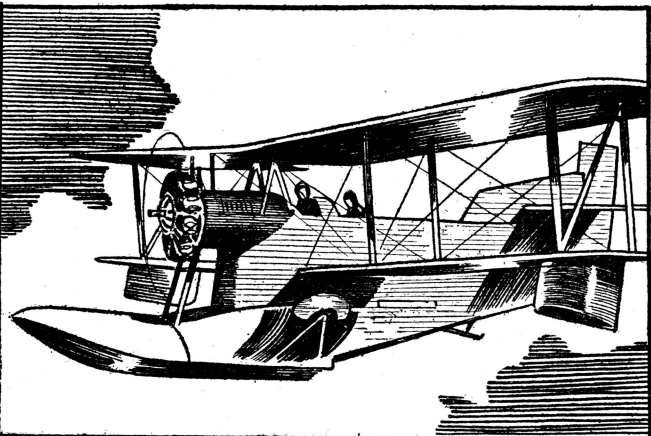
2—While enrolled at Columbia U., he founded the first American student flying club. In the spring of 1911 he was named a Master of Arts in Aeronautics, this being the first such degree awarded in America. Soon afterward, Loening became Chief Engineer of the Queen Aeroplane Company and directed the building of the world's first monoplane flying boat.



3—Early in 1914, Loening became Chief Aeronautical Engineer for the U. S. Army. Immediately he condemned all of the Army's obsolete Wright and Curtiss pushers, thus paving the way for the procurement of more modern equipment. While with the Army, he designed the Signal Corps Tractor plane, which established three-passenger and cross-country world records.



4—In 1917, Grover Loening organized his own company and constructed the famous Loening seaplane. The next year he brought out the Loening Fighter, which was quickly rated as the fastest and most practical two-place Army pursuit built during the war. For his work in developing this ship, Loening was honored with the Distinguished Service Medal.



5—After the war, this brilliant designer developed his renowned amphibian design. In 1921 he was awarded the Wright Trophy for his outstanding work and the following year the Collier Trophy. His ships saw several years of Navy service. And in the Army they proved their worth in the 1926 Pan-American Good Will Flight, covering 22,065 miles.



6—Loening disbanded his company in 1928, selling his interests to the Keystone firm. But he still continued to be an active figure in aviation, being connected with Roosevelt Field, also the Aeronautical Chamber of Commerce, which he helped to organize. In the first rank of honored aero Americans stands Dynamic Designer Grover Cleveland Loening!