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MARRIAGE A LA AIRPLANE AND RADIO

MARRIAGE IN AN AIRPLANE up in cloudland, with a celebrated aviator to perform the ceremony and a radiophone to send the record of it to an audience on the ground some miles away might certainly be described as thoroughly up to date. Such was the method recently adopted by a couple in—or rather over—New York, who immediately started on their honeymoon, the trip being made by air to Albany, Schenectady, Syracuse, and Niagara Falls. In the plane were Belvin W. Maynard, the “Flying Parson” who won the transcontinental air race last year—officiating clergyman—Bert Acosta, pilot; Athletic Director Albert P. Schlafke, of the Veterans Mountain Camp, the bridegroom; Miss Sarah Cockefair, a Brooklyn nurse, the bride; and little Mary Louise Bobb, the tiny flower girl; and a mechanic. Parson Maynard married Miss Cockefair and Mr. Schlafke as the plane was flying through the air and thousands of radio fans tuned in and acted as witnesses. All this in aid of the fund campaign of the Veterans’ Mountain Camp.

Prior to this interesting performance, Lieutenant Maynard radiophoned an address from the same machine, circling high above New York, appealing to perhaps 50,000 listeners at receiving stations in the Metropolitan district, for public support to carry on the Amercian Legion Mountain Home; and Miss Jeanette Vreeland rendered a vocal program from the same vantage point for the radio audience.

The New York correspondent of *Radio Digest* (Chicago) gives the following account of the novel enterprise:

“The flight was made under the auspices of the American Legion as part of its campaign on behalf of the proposed Soldiers’ Mountain Home. The route taken began at Hazelhurst Field at Mineola, Long Island, 18 miles from New York, and covered all Brooklyn, middle Manhattan and part of New Jersey.

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A RADIO
WEDDING.

*While they flew to
Niagra Falls, thousands
tuned in on their radios.*

"Lieutenant Maynard spoke about the aims of the American Legion. Mountain Home. The home is to be built to provide members who are suffering from ailments requiring pure mountain air, a retreat during convalescence.

"Miss Vreeland rendered a vocal program which included the 'Star Spangled Banner,' 'Holy, Holy,' and also the well-known prayer from 'La Tosca.' Her accomplishment as a singer was doubly remarkable, because she was able to hold the correct pitch throughout the selections in spite of the din of the 200 horse-power motor that was carrying the party through the air. Finally, Miss Thais Magrane spoke on behalf of the Women's Auxiliary of the American Legion.

"Before and after the announced program, conversations were carried on with various stations and amateurs, all of whom reported clear signals. A Brooklyn amateur said that he could see the plane sailing through the air while speaking to the occupants.

"The transmitting set consisted of a C. G. vacuum tube transmitter of 300 Mfcs capacity. It was built for aerial radio transmission for the United States Navy. The wave-length was 500 meters and 300 feet drop antenna was used. The total weight of the apparatus was 147 pounds. It was fastened to two pine boards screwed to the floor of the roomy cabin. The reel was attached under the seats.

"The tests were in charge of E. W. Dannels, the radio engineer of Brooklyn, connected with the General Electric Company. Mr. Dannels was one of the leading radio operators of the U. S. Naval aviation.

"He is remembered by many as the man who, some years ago, was wrecked in a Blimp as it burst off Sandy Hook, while the occupants were watching the sailing races. His daring in sending messages until the machine struck the water received world-wide comment.

"The interesting part of the test was made possible through the courtesy of the army authorities of Mitchel Field, Long Island.

"By hooking a receiving set to the regular telephone system they enabled the officials and guests of the Fokker Company, assembled in the hangar, to follow the whole program. The test proved, too, that an ordinary gasoline funnel held against a telephone receiver with a handkerchief wrapt around the connection made a very acceptable loud speaking horn."