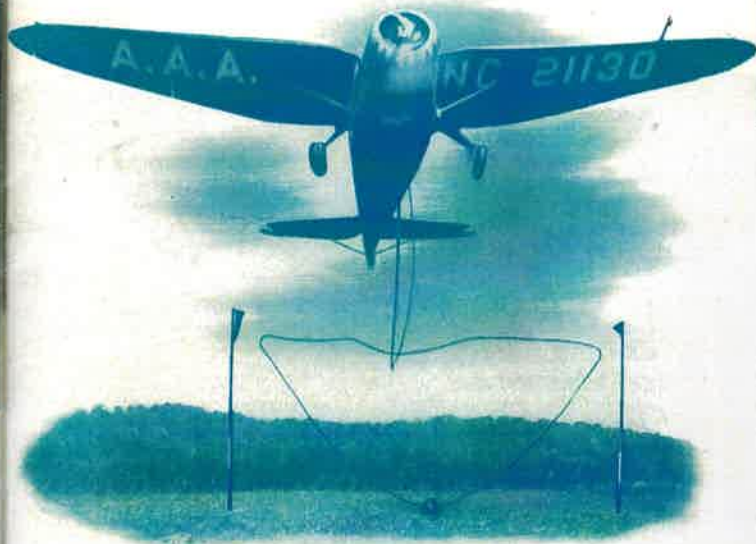


the Post Office Department. The only bidder, All American Aviation, received the contract for their operation for one year.

Extending 1,040 miles, the two routes traversed the mountainous regions of Pennsylvania and West Virginia where surface transportation is circuitous and slow. Some of the most difficult flying conditions in the country are encountered in these regions. Early air mail pilots called it "Hell's Stretch." A more exacting proving-ground could hardly have been selected to test Air Pick-Up's safety, efficiency and value as a postal utility.



*Head-on view shows Air Pick-Up plane pulling up at the precise moment Pick-Up hook engages loop attached to outgoing container.*

*Postal employee (below) sorts air mail for Air Pick-Up routes (note special pouches). At right, Flight Mechanic loads plane.*



*Pilot's-eye view of a typical All American station. No airport is required for operation. Messenger stands by at car.*

In its first year, All American flew 438,145 miles, made over 23,000 Pick-Ups, transported 75,000 pounds of mail and completed 91.6 per cent of schedules. Demonstration night Pick-Up flights were successfully conducted for several weeks on regular schedules.

The Postmaster General told Congress that the experiment "demonstrated conclusively that the pick-up can provide improved air mail service."

