

Soaring to New Heights: The Flying Life of Iris Louise McPhetridge Thaden

The Early Years

In a small town in Minnesota, amidst the serene landscapes and big dreams, Iris Louise McPhetridge was born in 1905. From a tender age, her heart fluttered with a yearning for the skies, inspired by the tales of aviation pioneers and the allure of soaring above the clouds.



THE FLYING LIFE Iris Louise McPhetridge Thaden and the Launching of THADEN SCHOOL: Presented to the '81 Club Monday 21 November 2024 by Mrs. Alan R. Marsh ... Nonfiction Books About Women and Men)

by JOAN MARSH

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language : English

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Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
X-Ray	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 46 pages
Lending	: Enabled



Flight Training and Record-Breaking Attempts

As she blossomed into a young woman, Iris's passion for aviation only intensified. With unwavering determination, she enrolled in flight training, becoming one of the few women in her era to pursue a career in the male-dominated field of aviation.

In 1928, Iris embarked on her first record-breaking attempt, aiming to set a new altitude record for women. Despite facing technical difficulties and unfavorable weather conditions, she persevered, ascending to an altitude of 18,415 feet, shattering the previous record and earning national recognition.

The Thaden Aircraft Company

Driven by her entrepreneurial spirit, Iris founded the Thaden Aircraft Company in 1930, becoming one of the first women to lead an aircraft manufacturing company. With her keen engineering mind and unwavering belief in the potential of aviation, she designed and built a series of innovative aircraft, including the Thaden T-3, which later became known as the Monocoupe 110.



The Thaden Aircraft Company, a testament to Iris's entrepreneurial spirit and passion for aviation.

The Bendix Trophy and Transcontinental Air Race

In 1936, Iris made history by winning the prestigious Bendix Trophy, becoming the first woman to win the renowned cross-country air race. Her victory shattered stereotypes and proved that women were just as capable as men in the field of aviation.

Continuing her legacy of pushing boundaries, Iris participated in the 1937 Transcontinental Air Race, flying her Thaden T-3. Despite facing engine troubles and challenging weather conditions, she displayed remarkable resilience, completing the race and earning the admiration of fellow aviators and the public alike.

Legacy and Impact

Iris Louise McPhetridge Thaden's pioneering spirit left an indelible mark on aviation history. Her record-breaking achievements, entrepreneurial endeavors, and unwavering belief in women's capabilities became an inspiration for generations to come.



In recognition of her extraordinary contributions, Iris was inducted into the National Aviation Hall of Fame in 1980. Her name remains synonymous with aviation excellence, a testament to the power of determination, innovation, and the unwavering pursuit of dreams.

The life of Iris Louise McPhetridge Thaden is a captivating tale of courage, determination, and the pursuit of aviation excellence. As a record-breaking pilot, aircraft designer, and pioneering entrepreneur, she shattered glass ceilings, inspired a nation, and left an enduring legacy in the annals of aviation history.

Through her unwavering passion for flying, Iris Louise McPhetridge Thaden became an icon of female empowerment, proving that women could soar to unimaginable heights, both literally and figuratively. Her story continues to inspire generations of aviators and dreamers, reminding us that anything is possible with determination, passion, and a belief in oneself.



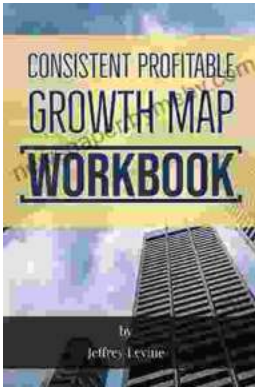
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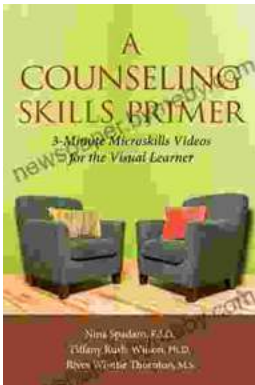
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