NO DRUMSTICK—This turkey won't feed hungry boys on Thanksgiving Day; it is one of the 30 ocellated turkeys brought to the United States from Guatemala.

ORNITHOLOGY

Family Thanksgiving Fowl To Be White This Year

See Front Cover

➤ THIRTY OCELLATED turkeys, more brilliantly colored and smaller than the familiar Thanksgiving fowl, have arrived from Guatemala—but not to grace Thanksgiving tables. Their great-great-grandchicks may make good eating, for Dr. J. S. Newell of Connellsville, Pa., who collected them, plans to establish the species in this country.

In the meantime, the U. S. Department of Agriculture is breeding a variety of small white turkey, shown on the cover of this SCIENCE NEWS LETTER, especially for family use. The male bird averages 15 pounds dressed, and the hens' average weight dressed is only eight pounds, so the family dinner table won't get competition from hotels and restaurants.

This is the first season of popularity for the snow-white gobbler, officially called the Beltsville Small White. White turkeys have been bred at the Beltsville Experiment Station for ten years, but they were not introduced to the public until 1941. Then, because they cost more to produce and price ceilings were uniform for all turkeys, breeders were not very interested. Only about one four-hundredth of this year's turkeys will be the Beltsville White. It is predicted that the number will increase considerably by next fall. The small white turkey is plump and broadbreasted.

Science News Letter, November 23, 1946

AERONAUTICS

Army Liaison Plane Has Folding Wings

➤ SPECTACULAR take-off and landing characteristics feature the new Army liaison airplane for use in observation, communication, and photographic work. It can take off in 230 feet and has landed in 227 feet at 43.5 miles per hour.

The new plane, equipped with folding wings and adjustable landing gear, can be towed over rough ground by military vehicles or can be hauled in a truck. Without having its propellers removed, it can be towed aloft by another plane, glider fashion, and then released on its own power.

The Army designation of the plane is L-13. It will be constructed by the Consolidated Vultee Aircraft Corporation, and is designed to replace the L-5 "Flying Jeep." It is an all-metal plane approximately 32 feet long with a wingspan of 40.5 feet. Its empty weight is less than a ton and its useful load about a half ton.

The plane is powered with a 245 horsepower Franklin engine, has a cruising speed of 92 miles per hour, and a range of 368 miles. Skiis can be installed to replace the landing wheels, and floats can be used instead of the landing gear.

Science News Letter, November 23, 1946

RADAR

Radar-Equipment Takes Pictures of Hurricane

➤ A RADAR-EQUIPPED plane flew through a hurricane east and northeast of Miami, Fla., Sept. 12 and 13, to make the first radar pictures of a hurricane ever made from aircraft, the Navy revealed.

The pictures, made aboard a Navy Privateer, show how the storm appeared on the radar scope, as compared with the visual description brought back by the crew who flew the storm.

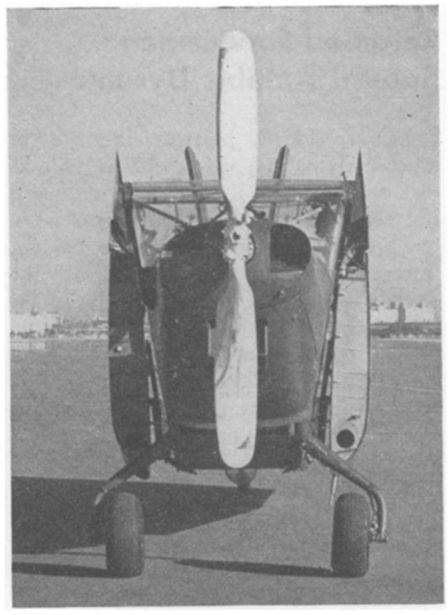
The eye-witness "log" of Ens. Wilfred J. Remillard, USNR, Fairhaven, Mass., aerologist on the flight, tells how the plane fought its way through the hurricane's turbulent winds of as high as 85 knots.

In the "eye" of the big storm, he reported little rain and moderate turbulence as the hurricane raged around its center.

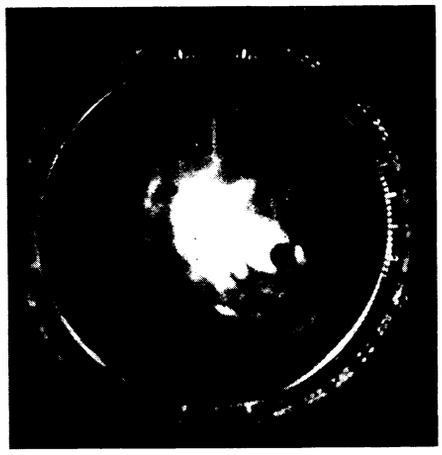
Radar scopes showing hurricanes had previously been photographed aboard ships and at shore stations, but the Navy reports that the September flight is the first time radar pictures have been made of a hurricane from aircraft.

The microwave pulses of radar of an appropriate frequency are echoed by water droplets in the air, forming patterns which trained observers can recognize. On the ground, however, radar is limited by the optical horizon, while it has an almost limitless horizon high in an airplane.

Science News Letter, November 23, 1946



L-13—Folding wings permit the plane, made by the Consolidated Vultee Aircraft Corp., to be towed or hauled over rough terrain. The landing gear is adjustable.



RADAR PICTURES—This picture, taken as the plane was leaving the storm area, shows the eye, or center, of the storm as the black dot. Official U. S. Navy Photograph.