

WINGSPAN

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WINGSPAN VISITS

Colonial Aircraft Corporation

One of the newest aircraft manufacturing companies to successfully establish themselves in the light plane field is the Colonial Aircraft Corporation of Sanford, Maine.

Manufacturing the four-place amphibian Colonial Skimmer IV,* the young company—which was organized in 1946 and went into production in 1955—proved that it had managed to avert the many pitfalls that have erased many other young companies when its stockholders discovered that it had managed to take off from the red ink and ended 1958 some \$24,000 in the black.

This is a young company, staffed by young men of vision and determination. Located in a section of a mill that at one time was the life blood of Sanford, the company now employs about 300 and is rolling out three amphibians each month, plus several other defense items for the United States and friendly nations.

The guiding genius behind the success story of Colonial Aircraft is David B. Thurston, president and general manager. He and Herbert P. Lindblad, vice president and chief engineer, are two of the original founders of the corporation that was organized in December 1946 in New York State.

A 1940 graduate of the Guggenheim School of Aeronautics, New York University, Thurston was associated with the Brewster Aircraft Corporation and United Aircraft Corporation for two years before he joined the Grumman Aircraft Engineering Corporation. There he was employed for 13 years, through 1954, holding positions as preliminary design group engineer and su-

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