

Don Boleski

I actually started building and flying kites at four or five years of age. I started flying model airplanes in 1936, at the age of six. My aunt gave me my first model, which she had a young man build for me. It didn't take too long for me to destroy that rubber powered model after making a few takeoffs from a piano bench in our living room.

My life centered around building and flying models for the next fifteen years. In 1951, I qualified for the Plymouth International Model Airplane Contest in Detroit and was awarded the Sportsmanship Trophy and won second place in combat.

I earned a BS in Mechanical Engineering from Missouri School of Mines in 1954 and went to work at Boeing in Wichita, Ks. two days later, where I worked in Experimental Flight Test for the next 38 years testing B-47's, B-52's, KC-135R's, 707's, 727's, 737's, 747's and the Navy A-6. I received a \$5,000 suggestion award in 1963 and was named Boeing Suggester of the Year. My last assignment at Boeing was managing the certification testing and delivery of two presidential Air Force One's in 1992.

I joined the Kansas Air National Guard in 1955 and took two years military leave from Boeing in 1956 to go to Air Force pilot training after which time I returned to Boeing Wichita Flight Test. I have flown the T-34, T-28, T-33, F-86L and the F-100C Super Sabre. I met my wife at Boeing. She earned a private pilot license having checked out in a Cessna 140. Not too many people are as blessed as I have been in having been given the opportunity to be involved in the development of so many great airplanes during my time at Boeing, all of which started with the gift of a rubber powered model airplane in 1936.

I still enjoy flying RC sailplanes, but at 86, I don't profess to be too proficient on the stick.

Don Boleski
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Don Boleski
Second Place Senior Combat
Winner of the prestigious Sportsmanship Award
1951 Plymouth Internats



ST. JOSEPH YOUTH HONORED . . . More than 1,600 persons looked on as Don Boleski, 20 years old, 2901 Sylvania street, was presented the sportsmanship trophy at a banquet concluding Plymouth's Fifth Annual International Model Plane contest at Detroit, Mich. Edward Meyers, Dodge official from Glenelg, Ill., is shown making presentation. Boleski was selected for the coveted honor from a field of more than 500 contestants representing all parts of the United States and Canada.



