

Higgins Salutes Gateway To South America

State-Wide Broadcast In Honor of Pan American Airways

On Saturday night, June 12th, at 8:00 p.m., the following program was broadcast over the entire State of Louisiana, in commemoration of the history-making flight at 1:50 a.m., Sunday morning, of the new Pan American Clipper, a photograph of which was in the June Eureka.

FORTIER: Tremendous quantities of Marine engines designed and developed by the Higgins-Tucker Plant assure Louisiana that its place as an engine manufacturing center is secure during the war and after the war. We're bringing you the spirit of the Higgins-Tucker Plant in the person of a gentleman whose name everybody knows, one of the Chevrolet Brothers, the Chevrolet Brothers; and now we present the master motor builder, Arthur Chevrolet . . . Mr. Chevrolet, it is a great pleasure to present you to the radio audience.

CHEVROLET: Thank you sir. I would prefer to answer any question rather than make a speech.

FORTIER: Certainly, Mr. Chevrolet. What is your official title at the Higgins-Tucker Engine Plant, near Bayou St. John?

CHEVROLET: I am Chief Experimental Engineer of the Hig-

gins-Tucker Plant, which is, I am proud to say, the first engine plant ever set up in New Orleans.

FORTIER: That's typically Higgins-like, to think big and act big in New Orleans, Mr. Chevrolet.

CHEVROLET: I'm proud too that I was "drafted" for my work here. I was sitting quietly at home with my wife in Columbus, Indiana, when the telephone rang and I picked up the receiver, and Mr. Preston Tucker was on the line, and I heard these words:—

VOICE: Arthur, I want you to pack up right away, you and the madam, for New Orleans. Andrew Higgins and I are going to build engines for the Higgins boats and for his cargo airplanes—we need you—you're "drafted," that's all there's to it. We'll expect you January 1, 1943. We're all raring to go—and Arthur Chevrolet must be our Chief Experimental Engineer. Good bye, Arthur, tell the madam hello!

CHEVROLET: And that was all there was to it. Imagine a man of my age being "drafted!"

FORTIER: Why, Mr. Chevrolet, you are essentially a twentieth century man, and the century is only 43 years old.

CHEVROLET: Well, have it your way. I am young in ideas then. After all, it is not so many

years back that Louis Chevrolet, my brother, and I founded the Chevrolet Motor Car Company. It was in 1911, and four years after that we were designing automobile racing engines for some of the greatest drivers the world has ever known.

FORTIER: Gaston Chevrolet, was the youngest of the three brothers, was he not?

CHEVROLET: Yes, Gaston won glory in winning the Indianapolis Auto Race in 1920 in our Frontenac-Chevrolet racing motor car, but he was killed in a race on Thanksgiving Day—that year.

FORTIER: All the Chevrolet Brothers have greatly contributed to the development of the motor engine, Mr. Chevrolet, and I speak for our audience, I'm sure, when I say welcome to Louisiana, Arthur Chevrolet. May I ask you another question, Mr. Chevrolet?

CHEVROLET: Yes, indeed!

FORTIER: It is proper, is it not, on an occasion like this when we are celebrating such a great event as the first trans-Gulf flight of an airplane from New Orleans to Central America, to recognize the great part played in the development of the airplane, by the inventors and designers of the gasoline combustion engine? It doesn't take any glory from the

Wright Brothers, as inventors of the airplane, to say that, does it?

CHEVROLET: No, not a bit. The gas engine could not have gone up in the air without the proper kind of plane; and the airplane would have remained a glider without the gasoline engine. The airplane owes its existence to these two distinct types of engineers.

FORTIER: And what of the future, Mr. Chevrolet?

CHEVROLET: We are going to build at Higgins-Tucker Plant better engines—always better. For the Higgins cargo-carrying planes, the engine will be different type, but there is no limit to what can be done by hard work, experience, skill and vision. We are going to do big things—very big things at Higgins-Tucker Engine Plant, and the whole world is going to hear from us.

FORTIER: You are a go-getter, Arthur Chevrolet. And now you hear the stirring song of the Army Air Corps, a tribute by commercial aviation to the Flying Warriors of the United Nations in celebration of their victory at Pantelleria.

(Music).