

JALBERT

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attached to four 12-foot kites and let her sail up into the air to take pictures.

Jalbert claims his understanding of "the mechanics of things" was an outgrowth of his interest in the physiology of the human body. At age 15 he was an amateur in the American Athletic Union and was training to become a national champion in track. In 1927 he represented a local athletic club in a Canadian competition held in Joliet, Quebec. Aside from the ribbons he won, it was here that Jalbert befriended a pilot. "I met him barnstorming—taking people on crazy stunt rides in a small plane. Instead of being paid for my assistance, I asked him to teach me how to fly one of those new machines.

"It was something I had always wanted to do," Jalbert continues, "so I took to flying like a duck takes to water. In six hours I was soloing a Curtis Jenny with an OX5 engine."

From the very beginning of his career, Jalbert was conducting research on kites, balloons and parachutes. In the late 1930s he worked as the chief rigger in the barrage balloon division at the United States Rubber Company. Just prior to World War II, he produced the "kytoon"—a combination kite and balloon—that could fly in a broad range of weather conditions. As a puffy, long bag with wings, the kytoon proved to be extremely buoyant and stable, giving it the nickname of "skyhook."

Within five years the Dewey and Almy Chemical Company sponsored his invention, and the United States Navy saw the importance of equipping life rafts with collapsible kytoons. Once inflated, they could lift radio aerials to send rescue signals during emergencies at sea.

The Rockefeller Foundation used kytoons to suspend aerial mosquito traps in its study of the spread of malaria in South America. Skyhooks have also carried radio and television equipment for clearer reception and have been sent airborne to collect samples in air pollution tests of major cities. Famous explorer Richard Byrd sent antennae aloft on kytoons during his mission to the Antarctic to assure dependable communication with the outside world.

Jalbert also designed self-inflating sea markers to be tossed from boats or airplanes in trouble, and in 1952 he constructed a new parachute to replace the conventional one. The Jalbert parachute,

holsten galleries

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Sydney Cash/David Schwarz
March 9—April 4

DAVID SCHWARZ, 12 1/2" x 17 1/4" x 8 3/4" - 1988



I SPENT A
RANSOM
ON THE
DRESS ...
ALL HE
TALKED
ABOUT WAS
MY HAIR

Moda
salon

POLO CLUB SHOPPES
CLINT MOORE RD.
& MILITARY TRAIL
BOCA RATON
994-6660