The story of the Spirit of St Louis. 2 MUSIC UP TO ESTABLISH THEN under 3 This production "Spirit: the story of the Spirit of St 4 Louis" is dedicated to someone with the most **spirit** I've 5 ever known—Lorene Jackson. 6 With this play, we pay tribute to the courage of a 25-7 year-old airmail pilot who believed he could change the 8 world—and did. (MUSIC FADE INTO: 9 RSFX: MUSEUM BACKGROUND UP AND THEN UNDER: 10 DOCENT Welcome to Smithsonian's Air and Space Museum. I'll 11 be your guide today. 12 SARAH Gee, Dad, that plane up there looks like the one we 13 have back in Seattle, at the Museum of Flight. That 14 little one, near the ceiling. See? 15 DAD Sarah, our plane was built by the same company as this 16 one. 17 SARAH It was? 18 DAD It sure was. But this one flew across the Atlantic ocean. 19 All by itself? But it's so small! SARAH 20 DAD Well, it did have a pilot. But he was all alone. 21 Wow. Just him and the plane flying above the water... 22 SARAH DOCENT Would you like to hear her story? 23 SARAH Yeah, mister. I really would. 24 DOCENT I like to call her "Spirit". Her name is "the Spirit of St 25 Louis" and her story begins back in 1919... 26 SFX: FADE MUSEUM SOUNDS 27

"Spirit"

1

1	RADIO SI	GNAL/RSFX: 8c97A up to establish then under
2	News1	1919 New York. Raymond Orteig, the well-to-do owner
3		of the plush Brevoort and Lafayette Hotels in New
4		York, has offered a prize of \$25,000 to be awarded to
5		the first aviator who shall cross the Atlantic in a land
6		or water aircraft (heavier-than-air) from New York to
7		Paris or the shores of France or vice versa without a
8		stop. The flight must take place within the next five
9		years. The contestants are required to file a 60-day
10		notice of intention prior to take-off.
11	News2	1924 New York. Raymond Orteig has renewed his
12		challenge to the aviation world. \$25,000 to go to the
13		first plane to cross the Atlantic non-stop, New York to
14		Paris. <u>MUSIC OUT</u>
15	NEWS1	Sept. 25, 1926. 6 am. New York. Rene Fonck, famed
16		French aviator, attempted a take-off from Roosevelt
17		Field in his Sikorsky tri-engined biplane "New-York-to-
18		Paris". At over 28,000 pounds, the plane labored
19		toward a take-off when part of the landing gear failed,
20		and the plane collapsed. Orange flames and black
21		smoke shot 70 feet into the still dark sky. Two of the
22		four crew survived
23	SFX: RAI	LROAD STATION UP/ESTABLISH FOR 4 SECONDS
24	(PHONE (CALL FROM A RAILROAD STATION)
25		

KEN (shouting into phone) 1 Hello? Robertson Aircraft? You fly the airmail, right? I 2 gotta talk to the boss, Bill Robertson. (pause) Mr. 3 Robertson?... Ken Boedecker, from the Wright 4 Company. I'm calling for Charlie Lindbergh.... Well, 5 no, I'm not in Chicago and neither is he. I'm at the 6 Peoria train station... Slim just got on a train with the 7 mail. His plane ran out of gas in the storm and he had 8 to jump... Yeah, jump... //That's what I'm tryin' to 9 tell you. ...He's fine. He wanted me to call. You know 10 that gas tank you had repaired? ... Yeah, the 110 11 gallon one. You better get your money back. I had a 12 look at this one and it can't hold more'n 85 gallons. 13 (pause) Oh, nobody told you? Well, nobody told Slim 14 either. He could used that extra 25 gallons. SFX: 15 RAILROAD STATION OUT 16 MUSIC BRIDGE (5C38) UP AND THEN UNDER 17 (ROBERTSON AIRCRAFT OFFICE, LAMBERT FIELD) 18 September 1926 St Louis, Lambert Field: Home of the **NARR** 19 Robertson Aircraft Company, the company that flies 20 the air mail between St Louis and Chicago, using war-21 surplus airplanes. The company has three pilots, 22 including a tall slender young man, Charles A 23 Lindbergh, better known as Slim. 24 SFX: DOOR OPEN/CLOSE; PLANES PERIODICALLY UNDER 25 SECTRY Oh, Slim! We heard all about the crash. Are you 26 okay? 27 **SLIM** Fine, I'm fine. Say, is the boss in? 28 He is, and he told me to send you in right away. SECTRY 29 I hope Bill's not too sore about me wrecking another SLIM 30 plane. 31

32

1 2 3	SECTRY	Oh, you know how he gets. (SFX: CLICK OF INTERCOM BUTTON) Mr. Robertson—Charles Lindbergh to see you. (SFX: CLICK) Go right in, Slim.
4	SLIM	Thanks, Sue. Into the lion's den.
5	SFX:	DOOR OPEN/CLOSE, FOOTSTEPS
6	RBTSN	Slim! I hoped you'd be by soon. How are ya?
7 8	SLIM	I'm sorry about the crack-up, Bill. I just got a little lost in the storm, and it just ran out of gas.
9	RBTSN	Thank God you're all right. You got the mail through?
10 11 12	SLIM	Oh, yeah, it's on its way. (uneasy pause) (RBTSN: good good) Say, Bill, I got something else I want to talk over with you.
13	RBTSN	What is it, Slim?
14 15	SLIM	I've been thinking a lot about the Ortieg Challenge, and I want to give it a shot.
16 17	RBTSN	What are you planning to do about a plane? None of ours can do that sort of trip.
18 19 20	SLIM	The Wright Company has built a plane using Bellanca's designs. I'm positive it would go the distance.
21	RBTSN	Wonder how much something like that would cost?
22	SLIM	Maybe\$10,000.
23 24	RBTSN	Wheuuuuu! That's a <i>lot</i> of money. Where are you going to get that kind of dough?
25 26 27	SLIM	I been working on that. I've got \$2,000 socked away in my savings account. I've talked to Earl Thompson; he's interested.
28	RBSTN (ql	k) Good, good.
29	SLIM	Major Lambert says he'll put in a \$1,000.
30 31	RBTSN	Lambert did? A thousand dollars? (musing) Now, that's something to think about.

1 2	SLIM	He said he would if I could get enough of the right kind of men together.
3	RBTSN (h	nesitantly)(pause) We'll help as much as we can, Slim,
4		but you know we aren't in a position to put up much
5		cash. We're losing money every day right now.
6	SLIM	I know. Bill, you can help in a couple of other ways. I
7 8		want to be able to say that the Robertson Aircraft is the group that's behind me; and there's the mail
9		schedule to consider.
10	RBTSN	You can say we're behind you if that will help any,
11		Slim, but I don't know about the schedule. You know
12		the Post Office won't take excuses. The mail's just got
13		to go through.
14	SLIM	I think we can keep the route running all right, Bill.
15	RBTSN	Well, be dang careful, Slim. You know how critical it is
16		to keep the Post Office happy.
17	SLIM	You know me—I'm always careful.
18	RBTSN	Maybe Harry Knight can give you a hand. He's the
19		president of the St Louis Flying Club. He's been real
20		helpful to me. He's got connections.
21	SLIM	Before I talk to him, I want to talk to the Wright
22 23		Aeroplane Company, in New York. I want to know just what the Bellanca can do, and how often
24		Whirlwind engines fail. If I have accurate data, I can
25		put up a better argument. I <u>have</u> to make a trip back
26		east.
27	RBTSN	Okay with me. Just make sure the schedule is
28		covered. Keep me posted. And I'll talk to Harry.
29	SLIM	Suresure, boss. Andthanks.
30	RADIO SI	<u>IGNAL</u>
31	NEWS2	Oct. 28, 1926 Associated Press,—Bridgeport, Conn.
32		The conqueror of the North Pole, Commander Richard

1 2		Byrd, to fly Atlantic; predicts ocean crossing next year.
3	RADIO S	·
4 5 6 7	NEWS1	Nov. 3 St Louis Post-Dispatch. Lindbergh makes 4th emergency parachute jump! He had several anxious moments when the parachute kept being inflated by gusts of wind. The mail, much of it oil-
8		soaked, was recovered from the wrecked airplane and delivered.
10	MUSIC B	RIDGE 5c38 5 SEC.
11	(Harry ha	as country/western accent/mannerisms)
12	RBTSN	Harry, this is my head pilot, Charles Lindbergh.
13	SLIM	Thanks for seeing me, Mr. Knight. Just call me Slim.
14 15	HARRY	Harry, call me Harry. (beat) Bill tells me you're stuck on this idea of flyin' the Atlantic.
16 17 18 19	SLIM (sel	lling) I think a modern plane can make that flight, and I'd like to try. It would show people what airplanes can do. It would advance aviation. It could even advertise St Louis.
20 21	HARRY	Whoa, boy, whoa. Pretty high-flyin' ideals for a simple plane flight.
22 23	SLIM	Yes, sir. AND there's a plane that would be perfect—the Wright Bellanca.
24252627	HARRY	The Wright-Bellanca? Butthat's a land plane. And if I remember correctly, doesn't it have only one engine? Now, Youaren'tthinkin' of flying over the ocean in a single-engined plane, are you?
28 29 30 31 32 33	SLIM	I know it sounds crazy. Everybody keeps telling me that 3 engines is the only way to go. But, sir—I know they're wrong. Just think about how much more fuel you'd have to carry to feed them—and how much it would weigh. And the chances of failure increase exponentially with each engine.

1 2	HARRY (cl	huckle) I'll admit that you got the confidence of a coyote.
3 4	SLIM	But I'm not confident about the money that I have to have to buy the plane. <i>If</i> they'll sell it to me.
5 6	HARRY	Have you gone to New York to talk to them? Sometimes you gotta hog-tie 'em face to face.
7	RBTSN (di	isgusted) He's been there several times.
8 9	SLIM	Bellanca really wants to sell me the plane, but there's always someone who says no.
10 11	RBTSN	If Bellanca comes through, we'll need money to fix the deal.
12 13 14 15	SLIM (dep	ressed) The men I've talked to who are interested don't have enough money. Those who have enough money consider the risk too great—if not for their bank accounts, then for their reputations.
16 17 18	HARRY	If you're goin' to make it, Slim, you've gotta put all your attention on that flight. You shouldn't be runnin' around havin' to worry about raisin' money.
19 20 21	RBSTN	Slim's been talking about trying to raise money by popular subscription. But that will take a lot of time and effort.
22 23	SLIM	It's not that many weeks to spring. The clock's ticking. Any day now someone's going to go for it.
242526	HARRY	Hmm, Let me talk to a friend of mine in the bank, Harold Bixby. Maybe we can take care of the financial end for you. How much money is it goin' to take?
27 28 29	SLIM	If we can get the plane and engine manufacturers to stand part of the expense, I think \$10,000 to maybe \$15,000 would be enough.
30 31 32	RBTSN	You're <u>still</u> talkin' about a single-engined plane. Wouldn't a tri-motor be better for that kind of flight?

1 2 3 4	SLIM (sig	h) For one thing, they cost a lot more: \$29,000 to get a tri-motored plane from Bellanca. The Fokker Company wants \$90,000. Multi-engined planes are more complicated,
5	HARRY	Butbut don't you want something that's sturdy?
6 7 8 9	SLIM	They're also heavy, and hard to handle in thick conditions; there are more things likely to go wrong with them. Besides, the greatest danger isn't engine failure.
10	HARRY	It's not? Then what is?
11 12	SLIM	It's the weather, and the take-off with that full load of gas.
13 14 15	HARRY(si	gh) You've only got a life to lose, Slim. But I've got my reputation to consider. Bill, your reputation will be on the line too.
16 17	RBTSN	Harry, this boy is the luckiest flier I know. He'll get it done.
18 19	SLIM	I can't believe that a flight to Paris would be any more dangerous than a winter on the mail line.
20	SFX: TEL	EGRAPH KEY
21 22 23	WU	DEC13, 1926 WESTERN UNION— PETERSON WRIGHT AERO COMPANY TO C.A. LINDBERGH. ANGLUM, MISSOURI
24252627		REGRET THAT WE DO NOT DESIRE AT THIS TIME TO HAVE WRIGHT BELLANCA USED FOR TRANSATLANTIC FLIGHT. STOP. SUGGEST FOKKER OR HUFF DALAND 3 ENGINE PLANES.
28	(TELEGR	APH KEY OUT)
29	MUSIC B	RIDGE 5c38—5 seconds
30 31 32	HARRY	Slim, you've sold us on this proposition of yours. Now, it's a tough job you're takin' on, but we've talked it over and we're with you.

1 2	SLIM	That's swell. I can pay you back when I get the Orteig Prize money.
3 4 5 6 7	HARRY	Now, nowFrom now on, you'd better leave the financial end to us. If you can keep costs down to the figures you gave us, I believe I can swing this deal. You concentrate on the plane and getting ready for the flight.
8 9 10 11	SLIM	I've got a couple of possibilities for a plane. Travel Air Company in Wichita is producing a monoplane along the general lines of the Wright Bellanca—and the National Air Transport pilots have been talking about it all winter.
13	SFX: TEL	EGRAPH KEY
14 15 16	WU	JAN 13, 1927 WESTERN UNION TRAVEL AIR COMPANY — TO C. A. LINDBERGH. ANGLUM, MISSOURI
17		NOT INTERESTED IN ACCEPTING YOUR ORDER.
18 19		(TELEGRAPH KEY OUT)
20 21 22 23 24	Trar coas	Then again, I've read of a high-wing monoplane built company called Ryan in San Diego—Pacific Air asport is using it on their mail route up and down the st. If they don't work out, I'll try some smaller panies, like Douglas or maybe evenBoeing.
25	SFX: TEL	EGRAPH KEY
26 27	WU	FEB. 4 WESTERN UNION RYAN AIRLINES TO ROBERTSON AIRCRAFT. –ANGLUM, MISSOURI
28 29 30 31		CAN BUILD PLANE SIMILAR M ONE BUT LARGER WINGS CAPABLE OF MAKING FLIGHT. STOP. COST ABOUT 6000 WITHOUT MOTOR AND INSTRUMENTS. STOP. DELIVERY ABOUT 3 MONTHS. (TELEGRAPH KEY OUT)

1 2	SLIM	Three months! February, March, April—I'm running out of time!
3 4 5 6	RBTSN	And I'm running out of mail. I need this flight of yours to get more people to send letters by airmail. The sooner you order it the better. Besides, we can always use it to fly the mail afterwards.
7	SFX: TEL	EGRAPH KEY
8 9	WU	FEB 5 WESTERN UNION— RYAN AIRLINES TO ROBERTSON AIRCRAFT. ANGLUM, MISSOURI
10 11 12 13		GAS CAPACITY 380 GALLONS CRUISING SPEED 100 MILES PER HOUR. STOP. CAN COMPLETE IN 2 MONTHS FROM DATE OF ORDER IF NECESSARY. STOP. WILL REQUIRE50 PERCENT DEPOSIT.
14		(TELEGRAPH KEY OUT)
15	MUSIC B	RIDGE (IN A HURRY MUSIC 2C245A (5 SECONDS)
16 17	HARRY	Do you think they can build a plane with enough performance, Slim?
18 19	SLIM	All I know is that Ryan mail planes have a pretty good reputation.
20 21 22	HARRY	Well, I certainly wouldn't turn them down because we haven't heard of them. After all they probably haven't heard of us a'toll.
23 24	RBTSN	At least they're anxious to build us a plane. That puts them ahead of the other companies we've tried.
25 26	HARRY	Slim, what say you go out to California and talk to them. See what they're like.
27	SLIM	Well, I can't very well size them up from here.
28	HARRY	Let's get on it then. How soon can you start?
29 30 31 32	SLIM	Within a week. I don't know how long I'll be away, of course. If we decide to buy a plane, I'll stay in California while it's being built—I'll take care of my own expenses on this trip.

1 2 3	HARRY	No, no, no, you won't. We're in this with you. We'll split up on all those things. Bill, it might be a good idea to get another pilot for your airmail.
4	RBTSN ()	I think I'd better.
5	HARRY	We'll take care of you, Slim.
6 7	SECTRY2	Sorry to interrupt, sir, but Mr Lindbergh, a telegram just came for you.
8	SFX: RIPP	ING OPEN ENVELOPE
9	SLIM	SAY, LISTEN TO THIS. IT'S FROM BELLANCA-
10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17		SORRY DELAYED AS HAVE BEEN OUT OF TOWN. STOP. WILLING TO MAKE ATTRACTIVE PROPOSITION ON THE BELLANCA AIRPLANE FOR PARIS FLIGHT. STOP. SUGGEST YOU COME NEW YORK SOON AS POSSIBLE SO WE CAN GET TOGETHER IN QUICKEST MANNER. STOP. \$15,000. STOP. WIRE ME CARE COLUMBIA AIRCRAFT CORPORATION.
18 19	SLIM	How about that! He must have gotten a new factory. I should go right away.
20	RBTSN	What about Ryan?
21 22	HARRY	Well, (chuckle) A bird in the hand is worth two out in California.
23	(SFX: SCR	PATCHING ON A CHECK)
24 25	HARRY	Slim, here's a check to take with you to New York. Sometimes cash in hand is the decider.
26 27	SLIM (stu	nned) Pay to the order ofCharles A Lindbergh! Fifteen thousand dollars!
28 29 30	HARRY (sa	atisfied chuckle) What would you think of naming it "Spirit of St Louis"?

1	SLIM (abs	ently) Suresure, Spirit of St Louis. (awed) I didn't
2		know you were going to make this out to me personally.
4 5 6	RBTSN (cl	nuckle) Well, Slim, Harry and I decided that if we couldn't trust you with a check, we ought not to take part in this project at all.
7	HARRY	Now, When are you goin' to New York, son?
8	SLIM	I'll take the train this afternoon.
9 10 11	RBTSN	We'll start setting up a Spirit of St Louis organization while you're away. Let us know as soon as you can when you'll be here with the plane.
12 13	SLIM	I'll try to land the Bellanca on Lambert Field within a week.
14 15	HARRY	We'll be out there with bells on, to meet you—andGood luck!
16	MUSIC BI	RIDGE brooding/semi-ominous/edgy? 1c50
17	(LEVINE'S	S OFFICE, NY)
18 19 20 21	NARR	Lindbergh has taken a train to New York, on his third attempt to buy the Bellanca, this time from Charles Levine, of the Columbia Aircraft Corporation. But it's not going very well.
22 23	LEVINE	I'm afraid Mr Bellanca sent you a misleading telegram, Mr Lindbergh.
24 25	SLIM	Mr Levine, you're telling me that the plane <i>isn't</i> for sale?
26 27	LEVINE	No, no, the Columbia Aircraft Corporation will sell our plane,
28	SLIM (qk)	Good, good because I've got the check right here.
29 30	LEVINE	but of course we reserve the right to select the crew that flies it. (pause?)
31	SLIM (stu	nned) What ? ButBellanca and I had a hand-shake

1	LEVINE (,
2		pilot our airplane across the ocean.
3 4	SLIM	I'm afraid there's been a misunderstanding. I thought I had made it clear that <u>I</u> would be the pilot.
5 6	LEVINE	The Columbia Aircraft Corporation cannot afford to take such a chance with <u>our</u> airplane.
7 8	SLIM	(getting angry) We wouldn't be interested in such an arrangement.
9	LEVINE	Come, come. We would select a good crew.
10 11 12	SLIM	This is a St Louis project. We'd naturally want to work with you very closely in running tests and planning for the flight
13 14	LEVINE	Your organization in St Louis would have <u>all</u> the credit for the flight, <u>all</u> the publicity.
15 16	SLIM	But if we buy a plane, we're going to control it, and we'll pick our own crew. AND it's going to be ME.
17 18	LEVINE	We know better than anybody else how to fly the Bellanca, how to take care of it.
19 20 21	SLIM	As far as I can see, we'd be paying \$15,000 for the privilege of painting the name of St Louis on the fuselage.
22 23	LEVINE	Isn't that what this is all about? Publicity for St Louis. Just leave the flying to <u>us</u> .
24 25	SLIM	Is the Bellanca for sale or isn't it? If it is, we can close the deal. If it's not, I want to look for another plane.
26 27	LEVINE	Yes, yes, it's for sale, but why won't you let us select the crew?
28 29 30	SLIM	Because I'm going to be the pilot. If you'd stated these terms before, it would have saved me a 2000 mile train trip.
31 32	LEVINE	You should think it over. You're just a boy. I'm telling you, it's better to leave it in our hands.

1	SLIM	There's no use thinking it over.
2	SFX	CHECK BEING PICKED UP. SCRAPE OF CHAIR.
3 4 5	LEVINE (off mic, calling) You're making a big mistake. The Bellanca is the only airplane built that is capable of flying between New York and Paris.
6 7 8	SLIM	If you won't sell it without strings, then there's no use wasting any more time here in New York. (disgust) Thanks for all your help.
9	SFX	DOOR OPEN AND CLOSE
10	MUSIC B	RIDGE— (California Here I Come) 1 line, fade into:
11	SFX: BAY	SOUNDS, WATER under
12 13 14 15 16 17	NARR	February 1927. San Diego. The Ryan Airlines factory is in an old, dilapidated building near the waterfront. There's no flying field, no hangar, no sound of engines warming up; and the unmistakable smell of dead fish from a near-by cannery mixes with the banana odor of dope from drying wings. Lindbergh arrives in a taxi,
18 19	(RYAN FA	feeling conspicuous.
20 21	SFX	KNOCKING, DOOR OPEN /DOOR CLOSE (BAY SOUNDS OUT)
22	SFX: mus	sic out_
23	AJ (off)	Mahoney, someone's at the door!
24	SLIM (cal	ls) Hello? I'm looking for Ryan Airlines?
25	SFX	FOOTSTEPS (2 people)
26	AJ (comir	ng on) Mahoney, I told you someone was here.
27 28	MAHONE	Y (coming on) Yeah, yeah, yeahOh, <i>hello</i> . You found us—We're Ryan Airlines.
29 30	SLIM	Charles Lindbergh. You know, from Robertson Aircraft?
31	MAHONE	Y (enthused)

1		Oh, yes! Welcome. I'm glad to meet you. I'm
2		Mahoney BF Mahoneyjust call me Mahoney—oh,
3		and this is AJ Edwards, (AJ: HOWDY) our sales
4		manager. Let's take a walk around the factory. How
5		was the trip from St Louis?
6	SFX:, THE	EN FOOTSTEPS OF 2-3 PEOPLE UNDER
7	SLIM	Oh, fine, but I'd be happier flying.
8	AJ	Well, we hope to take care of that. Just put your bag
9		by the wall there. (SFX: THUMP OF BAG) Now,
10		through here
11	SFX: DOO	OR OPEN; FACTORY NOISES (M is salesman, L doubtful-can you
12		really do this?) Periodic sawing and rasping of tools.
13	MAHONE	Y In this section we weld the metal tubing into the
14		frame. It gets covered with fabric upstairs.
15	SLIM	For a factory, you don't seem to have much being
16		built.
17	MAHONE	Y (selling) Oh, we've got plenty of action. Look at it
18		this wayIt frees us up to get your plane out of here
19		in the two months you specified. A sure bet.
20	SLIM	Where do you test your planes? Not around here,
21	ODIM	that's for sure.
22	AJ	Our flying field is out at Dutch Flats. Just on the edge
23	AO	of the city. We put the wing on a truck and tow the
23 24		fuselage behind.
25	MAHONE	
25 26	MMITONE	meet our pilots Harrigan and Kelly.
	OI IN I	
27	SLIM	I'm planning on making the tests myself.
28	MAHONE	
29		where we can talk.
30	SFX	DOOR OPEN/CLOSE. FACTORY NOISE OUT.
31		FOOTSTEPS OUT, CHAIRS SCRAPE

1 2	MAHONE	plane. What do you think of our proposition?
3 4	SLIM	Your telegram quoted a price of 6,000, without engine. How much for an engine?
5 6	MAHONE	We quoted it that way because we didn't know what you'd want in the way of engine and equipment.
7 8 9 10	AJ (selling	The price includes standard instruments and oversize fuel tanks. If you want one of the Wright Company's J-4 engines, the total would run just under 10,000.
11 12 13 14 15	SLIM	I'd much rather fly a J-5. They develop a little more power, and their rocker-arms are enclosed. I want a <i>metal</i> propeller, and I've got to have a turn and bank indicator. I'll need good instruments—the best we can get.
16 17 18 19	MAHONE	Y (selling) I'll tell you what we'll do. We'll give you the engine and all the extra equipment we buy for just what it costs us. Straight across the board. We won't take any commission on the extras.
202122	SLIM	Fair enough. How about performance? Are you sure you can build a plane that will take off with enough fuel for the flight?
23 24	AJ	We can do it. Let's talk to Don Hall about that. He's our designer—he makes the calculations.
25 26	SLIM (con	vinced) How soon could you start building the plane?
27 28	MAHONE	We'd put some of our workmen on it as soon as you place the order.
29	SLIM	Can we depend on delivery in2 months?
30 31	MAHONE	Y We can build it in even less, but I don't want to bank on it.

1 2	SLIM	Well, I think the next step is for me to talk to your engineer about some of the details.
3	MAHONE	
4	/TIATT 20 T	
5	•	OFT) SFX: DOOR OPEN SFX: FACTORY NOISE
6	SFX	FOOTSTEPS ON STAIRS DOOR OPEN
7	MAHONE	Y (calls) Hey, Don
8	DON (off 1	mic) Yeah?
9 10	MAHONE	Y This is Charles Lindbergh. He's the one looking for a plane to cross the Atlantic. Don Hall, our
11		engineer.
12	HALL	Glad to meet you. Come on in.
13	SFX	FOOTSTEPS DOOR CLOSE. SFX: FACTORY OUT
14	HALL	NowWhat would you like to know?
15 16	SLIM	Well, Convince me that you can build me a plane for my trip.
17	SFX	MOVING ROLLS OF PAPER (HE'S CONSTANTLY
18		DRAWING ON SOMETHING)
19	HALL	I'll be modifying my standard design for the M1
20		according to your specifications—see, I'll add a little to
21		the wing, lengthen the fuselage
22	SLIM	Anything to increase the range.
23	HALL	Yes, I need to add to the wing to get enough lift to get
24		you off the ground with the load of fuel. And that
25		means the engine will have to be moved forward. (Slim: Right)When it comes right down to it, I've really
2627		got to design a completely new fuselage structure to
28		meet your requirements.
29	SLIM	Something like the Bellanca?
30		

1 2	HALL	Kind of. Here's the type of landing gear I favor for your airplane—
3	SFX	SCRATCHING AS HE SKETCHES UNDER
4	SLIM	Don't bother with the brakes—I'll go without
5 6 7	HALL	Okay. The loads are efficiently carried to the fuselage, and the wheels are outside of the slipstream—that will cut down on the drag. The gas tanks
8	SLIM	I'll need plenty of those.
9 10 11 12	HALL	I've got to put the main tank in the fuselage, at the plane's center of gravity, and smaller ones in the wing. Now, where are we going to put the cockpits for you and the navigator?
13	SLIM	I only want one cockpit. I'll do the navigating myself.
14 15 16 17	HALL (sta	artled) You don't plan on making that flight alone, do you? II thought you'd need somebody to navigate and be relief pilot. II thought it would be much too long for one pilot.
18	SLIM	I'd rather have extra gasoline than an extra man.
19 20 21 22 23 24	HALL (ins	help from the standpoint of weight and performance particularly range. That would keep the length of the fuselage down to a more reasonable figure. It would probably save oh, about 350 pounds. That's at least 50 gallons more fuel, including tank weight.
25	SLIM	Will that give me a good reserve?
26 27 28	HALL	I think so. I was worried about thatbut are you sure one pilot, alone, can make a flight like that? It's going to be something like 40 hours in the air, you know.
29	SLIM	I don't think that's a problem.
30 31 32	HALL	Say, exactly how far is it between New York and Paris by the route you're going to follow?

1 2	SLIM	It's about 3500 miles. We could get a pretty close check by scaling it off a globe with a piece of string.
3 4 5 6	HALL	The public library down the street has one. It only takes a few minutes to drive there. I've got to know exactly what the distance is before I can make any accurate calculations. Let's go.
7	SLIM	Better bring along some string, to use on the globe.
8	HALL	Oh, that's right. I should have some in here
9	(SFX: DRA	AWER OPEN, RUMMAGE, DRAWER CLOSE)
10 11 12	HALL	Ah-ha, here it is. My automobile's right outside. We'd better snag Mahoney on the way out. He'll want to come with us. He always does.
13	MUSIC BI	RIDGE (LIBRARY) 2c35
14 15	LIBRARIA	N Our globe is over there, Gentlemen, on the table in that corner.
16	SLIM	Thank you, ma'am.
17 18	SFX: FOO	TSTEPS as they walk &(Slim is laying string on a globe)
19 20	SLIM (figu	ring) Let's see, from hereto about there It's3600 statute miles.
21 22 23	HALL	I assumed that the airplane ought to carry fuel for 4000 miles in still air. Maybe that isn't enough. You'll want to follow the ship lanes
24	SFX	FOOTSTEPS (of Librarian)
252627	SLIM	Nope, I'm going to fly straight across. What's the use flying extra hours over water just to follow the ship lanes?
28 29	LIBRARIA	N Gentlemen, you'll <u>have</u> to be quiet or you need to leave the library.
30	SLIM	Oh, sorryYes, ma'am.
31	SFX: writing	ng on back of an envelope)

1 2	HALL (WH	IISPER) Maybe we'd better put in 400 gallons of gasoline instead of 380
3 4	MAHONE	Y (WHISPER) Don, can you make all those changes and still get it built in 60 days?
5 6	HALL (WH	IISPER) It will be a real job; but I think we can ifif the men will put in a lot of overtime.
7 8 9 10	MAHONE	Y(WHISPER) All right, let's get under way as fast as we can. (FORGETTING TO WHISPER, excited) You give us the order, Slim, and we'll start. That will make \$10,500, —** (whispering) with a J-5 engine special equipment extra, at cost.
11		
12	LIBRARIA	
13	MUSIC BI	RIDGE—California sunshine music?BRIGHT 2c35
14	SFX: BEA	CH SOUNDS up and under SFX: twig in sand?
15 16 17 18	NARR	Taking a break from the factory, in the warm California sunshine, Lindbergh and designer Don Hall sit on the beach. Don continues to draw, using a twig in the sand, trying to finalize the design.
19 20 21	HALL	Charlie, there's some more things we've got to decide on before I can go ahead with the design. (Slim: Like what?) <i>Where</i> are we going to put the cockpit?
22 23	SLIM	Don, I want it behind the gas tank—just about where it is in the M-2.
24252627	HALL	Butthen you couldn't see straight ahead. The gas tank would be directly in front of you. I thought you'd want to sit behind the engine for the best possible vision.
28 29 30	SLIM	Not on your life. I don't like the idea of being sandwiched between the engine and a gas tank. If you crack up, you haven't got a chance.
31	HALL	ButBut not to be able to seeforward

1 2	SLIM (qk)	A compass won't work up there either, so close to the engine. And I've <i>got</i> to have that on this flight.
3	HALL	How will you take off, if you can't see forward?
4	SLIM	The nose of the fuselage and the engine blocks out the
5		field straight ahead, see, so pilots always look out at
6		an angle when we take off. Some of the mail pilots
7 8		even paint their windshields black to cut down reflection at night. They can't see forward either.
9	HALL	Okay, so that's not a problem for you—(Slim: nope) it
10 11		would be for me. But what about once you're in the air?
12	SLIM	There's not much need to see ahead in normal flight.
13		There won't be anyone to run into. And no buildings.
14	HALL	Well, yeah
15	SLIM	And when I'm near a flying field, I can watch the sky
16		ahead by making shallow banks.
17	HALL	Well, I don't know
18	SLIM	Look, why don't we leave the cockpit in the rear and
19		just fair it in? All I need is a window on each side to
20		see through.
21	HALL (ent	hused, drawing in sand) Hey, a cockpit like that
2223		wouldn't add any resistance at all. It ought to increase the cruising speed 2 or 3 miles an hour. We might
24		pick up an extra 100 miles of range that way.
25	SLIM	You could even make the center panel of the wing out
26		of glass, so I could see up
27	HALL	Yeah, that'd work. 'Course, you'll be so far back in the
28		fuselage, there might not be enough room for your
29		head.
30	SLIM	I'll crouch.

1 2 3	HALL	ror 40 hours? Maybe I can notch the inside of the cockpit, to give you a little more head-room. You're pretty tall, even sitting down.
4 5 6 7	SLIM	We need to give first consideration to efficiency in flight; second, to protection in a crack up; third to pilot comfort. I don't see why a cockpit in the rear doesn't cover all three.
8 9 10	HALL	Charlie, what are you going to use the airplane for later on? The passenger arrangement won't be as good with the pilot behind.
11 12	SLIM	If we're going to break the world's record for distance, we've got to put range above everything else.
13 14	HALL	I suppose you could rip out the gas tank and carry mail. That's what I designed it for.
15 16	SLIM	I'm not going to think about "after" until I land in Paris.
17 18	HALL	Okay. Now, what night-flying equipment do you want in the plane?
19	SLIM	I'll use a flashlight.
20 21 22	HALL	Oh, yeah? Well, okay, if that's how you want it. (beat) You know, I'm just not satisfied with the size of the M-2 tail surfaces.
23	SLIM	Would be dangerous to use them?
24 25	HALL	Not for an experienced pilot. But it won't be very stable.
26272829	SLIM (am	used) I'm probably the most experienced pilot from the airmail, who's still alive. Besides, having the plane unstable will force me to stay awake. If I nod off, the plane will nudge me awake.
30 31	HALL	Not something I want my reputation to hinge on. (pause) Okay, Charlie, I'll freeze the design.
32	SFX (beac	ch sounds out)

- MUSIC BRIDGE (night?) 5c38 5 seconds 1 SFX: DOOR KNOB RATTLES. LOUD BANGS ON THE DOOR. 2 SFX: DOOR OPENS 3 **MAHONEY** Don't you guys ever quit work? And another 4 thing--where do you keep the key to this door? I might 5 want to get in here some night. 6 For what, your weekly poker game? There isn't any HALL 7 key, at least not since I've been working here. We use 8 a hacksaw blade to get in—just slip it through the 9 crack there, and push. 10 MAHONEY (laughs) Next time we'll leave you a chip or two. 11 HALL Just leave the money on the table. 12 **MAHONEY** I've brought up the paper. There's an article you 13 may want to see. Good night—and sweet dreams. 14 SFX: RADIO SIGNAL 15 NEWS1 FLASH March 2, 1927 New York: Wannamaker 16 behind New York-Paris flight! Will finance Commander 17 Byrd venture with \$100,000! May race with Fonck! A 18 huge three-engined Fokker monoplane, now under 19 construction, is to be used for the trip. 20 NEWS2 This spring may see a race between American and 21 French pilots for the honor of being first to fly between 22 New York and Paris. The Sikorsky Company 23 announced recently that a big plane was being built. 24 It is reported that the pilot will be Capt. Rene Fonck, 25 the French ace who crashed on Roosevelt Field on an 26 attempted take-off for Paris last September. 27 A number of American pilots, including Commander NEWS1 28
- Noel Davis, are known to be planning on competing for the Orteig prize. Charles A. Lindbergh, a St Louis mail pilot, has filed the latest entry, according to the National Aeronautic Association. He will pilot a single-engined Ryan monoplane, and plans to make the flight alone.

1 2 3	NEWS2	On the European side of the ocean, it is understood that trans-Atlantic planes are being constructed in France, England and Italy.
4	SFX: FOL	DING PAPER UP
5	SLIM	We'd better go get some supper.
6 7	HALL	I gotta get these drawings done, Charlie. They're holding everything up.
8 9	SLIM	But not tonight, Don. Don't you think you ought to set a regular pace at this work?
10	HALL	You're the one to talk.
11	SLIM	A fellow can't think as clearly without sleep.
12	SFX: PUT	TING COATS ON, FOOTSTEPS UNDER
13 14 15 16	HALL	I'll get some rest as soon as I get ahead of the shop. (pause) Say, we ought to have some kind of ventilation in the cockpit if you're going to fly with the windows closed.
17 18 19	SLIM	How about having the windows removable, to give me the option of open or closed? Maybe a rack to slip them into when they're not in use.
20 21	HALL	Okay. (pause)Do you want gauges on your gas tanks, Charlie?
222324	SLIM	No. That would mean extra pounds and they never seem to work. I'll measure fuel consumption with my watch.
25	HALL	How about dump valves for the tanks?
26 27	SLIM (qk)	Now who's being obsessive. Come on, I'll buy you dinner.
28 29	SFX: FOO	TSTEPS, DOOR OPEN AND CLOSE

1	SFX: RADIO	O SIGNAL
2	NEWS1	March 14. NEW YORK. American Legion backs Davis
3		New York-Paris flight! Plane to have 4,600 miles
4		range! Lt. Commander Noel Davis plans to take off
5		from Mitchell Field, Long Island, in June for a non-
6		stop flight to Paris. The big Keystone biplane will be
7		powered with three Wright Whirlwind engines.
8	FACTORY	NOISES UP AND UNDER
9	NARR	The construction of the Spirit of St Louis moves along
10		as fast as Hall can produce drawings from his board.
11		Hawley Bowlus, the factory manager, starts work on
12		less important items without waiting for drawings.
13		And others get involved in the project
14	RANDOLF	PH Hey, Mr. Lindbergh, I've been thinking about
15		your lack of forward visibility.
16	SLIM	Randolph, I told Don that it would be okay—I can get
17		by with only seeing out the side windows.
18	RANDOLF	PH I was with the submarines in the War. I got to
19		thinking about periscopes and I had an idea. What
20		about using one of those to give you a look?
21	SLIM	What, above the wing?
22	RANDOLF	PH No. Here, I done a mock-up. (SFX SLIDING OF A
23		BOX) Just a sliding box, with two mirrors. If we put it
24		on the wall of the tank, you could slide it out to the
25		left, and see in front of the engine. SFX: SLIDING BOX
26		A COUPLE OF TIMES See that? (SFX: 2 MORE BOX
27		SLIDES)
28	SLIM	I couldn't leave it like that. It'd cause turbulence and
29		affect my speed.
30	RANDOLF	PH You'd only use it if you needed to. I could make it
31		out of lightweight wood.
32	SLIM	Okay, but talk to Don before you install it.
33 34	RANDOLF	PH Sure. I don't want to get fired for adding my ideas without permission.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7	NARR	Everyone is taking a personal interest in the flight; hours of overtime have become normal and voluntary. Hall often goes to the factory at 5 o'clock in the morning to inspect the previous day's progress before the men arrive. Work on the other planes has almost stopped. It's less than 3 weeks since Lindbergh arrived in San Diego, yet skeletons of the fuselage and
8		wing have already taken form. SFX: FACTORY OUT
9	RADIO SIG	
10 11	NEW2	March 26, Paris. Nungesser to fly Atlantic! Captain Charles Nungesser, one of the top aces of the War said
12		today he would pilot a French-built plane across the
13		Atlantic this summer. He will be accompanied by Lt.
14		Coli, the famous one-eyed airman as co-pilot and
15		navigator.
16	MUSIC: B	RIDGE 5C38 (5 seconds)(LINDBERGH'S APARTMENT)
17 18		ER RUNNING IN SINK, WRINGING OUT WASHCLOTH BRUSH & MUG, BEING BEATEN?)
19 20 21	AJ	Slim, I know you're real busy, but can I bother you while you shave? I need to know what you plan to carry, so I can buy it? <i>Before</i> you leave?
22 23	SLIM	Sure, sure, AJ. I'll try not to cut my throat while I'm answering.
24 25	AJ	Don tells me you aren't going to carry a parachute. Whyever not?
26 27	SLIM	If I'm over water, what use is parachutingjust to land in the water? I'm dead.
28	AJ	Well, you got a point.
29 30	SLIM	I'd need the gear on the plane to survive. So if something happens, I have to bring the plane down.
31	AJ	If you're over land, you'll drop the plane onto a field?
32 33	SLIM	Yep, just like we always do when flying the mail. I'd rather have extra gas.
34	AJ	And no navigation lights, Don said.

1	SLIM	I got permission to do without those.
2	AJ	Radio?
3	SLIM	Too heavy, and they don't work when you need them.
4	AJ	Sextent?
5 6	SLIM	How am I going to hold onto one to take a sight and steer the plane at the same time?
7	AJ	How in SAM Hill are you going to find your way there?
8	SLIM	AJ, I'm studying navigation while Spirit is being built.
9	AJ	You have?
10 11 12 13	SLIM	Yep. That gives me 2 months. The fellows over at the Naval Station have been real helpful. I'm going to use dead reckoning combined with a mapped out course using compass headings.
14	AJ	But how
15 16 17	SLIM (qk)	So many degrees for so many miles. Oh, and fly down to 50 feet to check the wind. I'm going to need all the maps along the routeyou'll get those for me?
18 19 20	AJ	Sure, Slim, sure. Though how you're going to manage the charts I don't know. I always need 3 hands to deal with them.
21 22 23	SLIM	Well, if I cut away everything but the section that uses my compass headings, they'll be easier. And it'll save weight.
24 25	AJ	You and your weight. I wouldn't put it past you to slice out the extra pages from your log book.
26 27 28	SLIM	Now <i>that</i> 's a good idea. (pause) There <i>is</i> another thing. I know that Ryan usually puts in leather chairs for their pilots.
29	AJ	Yeah, we make 'em real comfortable.
30 31	SLIM	I need you to buy me a wicker chair to replace it. It'll be half the weight.
32 33	AJ (protes	sting) But, Slim! It'll be hard to sit in, particularly after hours and hours.

SLIM	AJ, if the chair's too soft, I'll fall asleep. But if it'll make you happy, you can buy me an air cushion to go on top of it.
AJ	Okay, a wicker chair. What about clothes for Paris? You going to bring a suit, of course.
SLIM	You think they plan to wine and dine <i>me</i> a nobody from Missouri? I doubt it. No, I need to mind every ounce and half-ounce. No suit.
AJ	Shirt, tie?
Slim	I can wash mine out.
AJ	Socks, underwear?
SLIM	Ditto.
AJ	Toothbrush?
SLIM	Too heavy.
AJ (laugh:	ing) I give up. 0 SIGNAL
NEWS1	April 9, Bristol, Penn. Paris Plane tested! American Legion shows high speed in surprise flight! Lt. Commander Noel Davis took his Keystone biplane on its maiden flight. Construction is progressing rapidly on the tri-motored Fokker for Commander Richard Byrd.
MUSIC—v	working, working. Under? 1c34 SFX: FACTORY NOISE
NARR	On the Ryan factory floors the workman are out to set a record in construction time—they're reading the papers too. They know how desperately Lindbergh wants to be in New York by the end of April. They've been watching the reports about Nungesser's final preparations in France; about Byrd's trans-Atlantic Fokker; about Chamberlin and the Bellanca; about Davis and Wooster. Every expedition is ahead of them.
	AJ SLIM AJ Slim AJ SLIM AJ SLIM AJ (laugh: SFX: RADI NEWS1

1 2	SFX: FACT	ORY NOISE OUT; MUSIC OUT O SIGNAL
3 4 5	NEWS2	April 14, New York. Bellanca plane smashes world's record! Chamberlin and Acosta lands after 51 hours 11 minutes 25 seconds.
6	MUSIC: 1	C34 UNDER SFX: FACTORY NOISE UNDER
7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14	NARR SFX: RADI	A single day's delay might make the difference between success and failure, and everyone in the shop is determined that the responsibility for such a disappointment won't lie with them. Each is striving to do a quicker and better job on the Spirit than he's ever done before. No pains are too great, no hours too long. (MUSIC OUT/SOUND OUT)
15 16 17 18	NEWS1	April 16, New York. Byrd's aircraft AMERICA crashes on test flight! Byrd, Bennett and Noville injured, Fokker piloting craft at the time! The big tri-motored Fokker crashed at Teterboro airport at 6 pm.
19	MUSIC u	nder; SFX: FACTORY NOISE
2021222324	NARR	Lights sometimes burn in the factory all through the night. Don Hall worked for one stretch of 36 hours without sleep. Drawings are sent down to the factory floor calling for accuracy of one thirty-second of an inch—never before required.
25 26	(MUSIC/) SFX: RADI	NOISE OUT) O SIGNAL
27	NEWS1	April 22. Paris. Nungesser plane completes tests!
28	NEWS2	Bellanca made ready for take-off!
29 30	NEWS1	Drouhin enters contest! The French aviator has been running secret tests with a Farman biplane.
31 32	NEWS2	Fonck sails for America! Competition in the New York to Paris flight contest intensifies.
33 34	MAHONE	Y (calls) Slim! There's more telegrams for you. You've got Western Union really earning their dough.

1	SFX	FOOTSTEPS AS SLIM COMES DOWN STAIRS
2 3 4	SLIM	Thanks, Mahoney. (SFX OPENING ENVELOPE) Hmmthis is the number for the plane. NX dash 211. Mahoney, what's an N-X?
5 6 7 8	MAHONE	N stands for planes from the United States. X is for experimental. 'Course you can't carry passengers with an X license, but I guess you aren't going to do that anyway.
9	SLIM	They won't exactly fit in the gas tank, will they?
10 11 12 13	MAHONE SFX: RADI	the numbers painted on top and bottom of the wing, and on the tail.
14 15 16 17	NEWS1	April 24, New York. Bellanca in crack-up! The Bellanca trans-Atlantic monoplane narrowly escaped disaster, following its christening ceremonies today, when part of the landing gear tore loose on take-off. Chamberlin landed using one wheel and one wing
19	MUSIC: E	BRIDGE, 5 SECONDS
20 21 22 23	HALL	Slim, this morning we're going to take the ship out of the factory. We got the fuselage out just fine, by taking off the landing gear on one side. But I miscalculated on the wing.
24	SLIM	You miscalculated?
25 26	HALL	When I added 10 feet to the wingspan, I forgot how that might affect getting the wing out of the loft.
27 28	HAWLY	We can take the loft doors off. That'll give us a little extra.
29 30	HALL	Hawley, you sure we won't to have to tear out a section of wall?
31	HAWLY	I measured it, and I think it'll clear if we tilt it.
32	HALL	I hope you're right.

1 2 3 4	HAWLY	Jon, you gather the guys and push that boxcar next door over to the factory. It'll give us the first step downward. Oh, and Jon, move the truck next to the boxcar.
5 6	JON	Jah, Hawley. (calls) Hey Fred! Get some guys and come with me.
7	SFX	FOOTSTEPS
8	JON (out	of breath)calls) Okay, Hawley, we're ready.
9 10 11 12 13	HAWLY	Don, help me hook the derrick onto the wing. There. Now, everybody gently push the wing out the door—gently! Gently. Slim—watch your fingers there. (SFX scrapping sounds) Goodthat's got it! Now, let's lay it down on the top of the boxcar. Jon—keep that line taut! Pull your way, Bert! Pull!
15	MAHONE	CY AJLook back at the shop.
16 17 18	AJ	How about that. Every workman from the factory is watching from the open doors and windows as if some child of theirs were going away to war.
19 20	MAHONE	Well, their work is done. Now it's all riding on Lindbergh.
21	AJ	I hope he doesn't let them down.
22 23 24	HAWLY	Pull! (SFX pulley sounds—STRUGGLE OF MEN). Now, swing it over to the truck. Let it down slowly—slowly. There. (SFX pulley sounds—STRUGGLE OF MEN)
25	SFX: ME	N STRUGGLINGOUT
26 27		OMINOUS/DIRGE bridge 5L88 IO SIGNAL
28 29 30	NEWS1	April 26. Hampton, Va. Davis and Wooster killed! American Legion crashes on take-off for final test flight! Lt. The tragedy occurred when the machine was
31		carrying almost the equivalent of its full load for the trip. (SIGNAL OUT)
32		HID. ISIGNAL OUT

1 2 3 4	SLIM	Oh, no! Davis and Wooster killed! Every one of the big multi-engine planes built for the Paris run has crashed—Fonck's Sikorsky, Byrd's Fokker and now Davis' Keystone. All of them.
5	AJ	That's terrible! Two more men—that makes four killed
6	SLIM	Their plane didn't even burn.
7	AJ	Slim, just make sure you're not next in line, okay?
8	MUSIC B	RIDGE (DUTCH FLATS AIRFIELD) 5C38—5 SECONDS
9	(reporter	1 is on filter mic)
10 11 12 13 14 15	REPTR1(f	Ladies and gentlemen, it's April 28, around 8 o'clock. We're here at Dutch Flats to watch Charles Lindbergh take his new airplane aloft on her maiden flight. The company is well represented here—in fact they must have given the workers the day off, since there are more than 35 of them, from secretaries to the shop foreman.
17 18 19 20		Lindbergh has gotten into the cockpit of the 27-foot plane, which is hidden beneath the large 46-foot wing Now the moment of truth—will the "60-day Wonder" fly?
21	SLIM (call	s, off mic) Off! Throttle closed.
22232425	RPTR1(F)	Jon van der Linde, Ryan's chief mechanic, turns the propeller over several times by hand. The 223-horsepowered engine has 9 cylinders in a circle, behind the propeller.
26 27	RSFX	ENGINE BEING TURNED (Jon & Slim off mic, under Rptr1)
28	JON (calls	s) Contact!
29	SLIM (call	s) Contact!
30 31	REPTR1(F	blade as he pulls it through. The engine catches, and
32		picks up quickly (RSFX: ENGINE STARTING; THEN

1		<u>UNDER</u>). The Spirit starts to quivver, the fuselage
2		trembling with power. Corrigan ducks under the wing
3		for just a minute, to pull the chocks away from the wheels. It's taxiing on the baked mud surface of the
4 5		field—50 feet, 100 feet, 150 feet—it's in the air!
6	BIZ	CROWD CHEERING UP AND THEN UNDER
7 8	RPRTR1(I	F) The crowd is going crazy, clapping and cheering, as Lindbergh circles overhead.
9	MUSIC B	ridge ? TRIUMPH! – 3C98B7
10 11	FRANK in ju	We will return to Spirit: the story of Spirit of St Louis ast a minute.
12	INTERMIS	<u>SSION</u>
13	MUSIC u	ndertired, sunset-kind of music 2C48A, UNDER
14 15	FRANK Act	We return to Spirit: the story of the Spirit of St Louis, II.
16 17 18 19	NARR	The next day, at Camp Kearney, Lindbergh has been taking off and landing all day, doing tests on how long it takes Spirit to get off the ground with different amounts of gas. It's now close to sunset. (MUSIC OUT)
20	SFX ENC	GINE NOISE TO ESTABLISH (3SEC) THEN CUTS OFF
21 22	SLIM (tire	ed) How was it that time? I figured it was about 20 seconds.
23	HALL	Just over a thousand feet.
24 25	JON	That was the 300 gallon test. You want 50 gallons more?
26 27	SLIM	It's too late for another flight today. The sun's almost touching the horizon.
28		

1 2 3	MAHONE	Y I don't think you ought to take a heavier load across those stones anyway. The tires and the landing gear are taking a beating.
4	SLIM	Don, do we need any more check points?
5 6 7 8	HALL	II'd like to get one for 350. (hesitantly) But Charlie, if you think the surface is too rough, we can probably get by with what we've got. The wheel bearings were smoking a little, you know.
9 10 11	MAHONE	Y It's landing with all that gasoline that worries me. I'm for calling it enough. We don't want to lose the whole shooting match.
12 13 14 15	SLIM	I'll have to take off with 125 gallons more in New York, but the field will certainly be smoother, and at sea level. I think you're right, Mahoney. I'll probably never land anywhere with more than 300 gallons.
16 17 18	HALL	Hey, Charlie, you want a ride back to town with me? Mahoney's going off to his favorite place in Tijuana: the Agua Caliente Casino.
19	SLIM	Sure, Don, that'd be fine.
20	MAHONE	Y I just need a little fun.
21	HALL	Uh-huh. Just make sure you bring back the payroll.
22 23 24 25	MAHONE	Y I always do. We need to get this gasoline out of this plane, and then stake it down for the night. We'll tow it back to the shop tomorrow. Jon, will you and Fred take care of that?
26	JON	Jah sure, boss.
27	MUSIC TO	UNLOAD GAS BY 5C38 5 SECONDS BRIDGE
28 29	FRED (im	patiently) Come on, come on. Aren't you guys done yet?
30	JON	Just about done
31	SFX: CLU	NK AS THE HOSE SINKS TO BOTTOM OF TANK

- 1 (Fred is supervisor. Pick up the pace, no pauses)
- 2 FRED (suspicious) What was that?
- 3 JON (horror) Gott, no! The siphon hose fell into the gas tank.
- 4 (struggle) I can't get it out!
- 5 FRED (aghast) You can't let that hose stay in the gas tank.
- 6 JON (sell) Don't worry, Fred, maybe it'll dissolve.
- 7 FRED We're going to have to cut a hole in the tank and take
- it out. What if it blocked Charlie's fuel flow?
- 9 JON (sell) I'm sure it'll dissolve.
- 10 FRED It'll dissolve—HA! I built this gas tank—I can rebuild
- it if I have to. Before Mr Lindbergh finds out. And then
- I may operate on your paycheck as well.
- JON (placating) Now, Fred. No need for drastic measures. I'll give
- you a hand to fix it tomorrow morning.
- FRED I'll pick you up, just to make sure. You better be ready
- 16 early.
- Jon Jah sure, Fred, sure. Just don't tell Mahoney.

18 MUSIC BRIDGE 5 SECONDS 2c48A

- 19 SFX: RADIO SIGNAL
- 20 NEWS1 May 8-- Paris: Nungesser over Atlantic! Captains
- 21 Charles Nungesser and Francois Coli took off at
- sunrise from Le Bourget, Paris with their overloaded
- Levasseur biplane. If all goes well, they are expected to
- land in New York tomorrow.
- 25 AJ (softly) I almost hope they don't make it.
- 26 SLIM (angry, but guiltily) Don't say that.
- Aw, Slim, we know how you feel.
- 28 SLIM I've started thinking about the idea of flying over the
- 29 Pacific.
- 30 AJ Slim, let's wait to see whether they make it or not.
- 31 Okay?

1	MUSIC—C	OMINOUS, LOW IN STARTING, GROWING, UNDER
2		8TC95?
3	(News rep	orts will be almost be overlapping each other, to
4	CEV. DADI	indicate urgency)
5	SFX: RADI	
6	NEWS1	Nungesser sighted off Cape Race!
7	NEWS2	Nungesser's White Bird reported by Destroyer!
8	NEWS1	French Airmen reach Nova Scotia!
9	NEWS2	Ocean plane seen off Portland, Maine!
10	NEWS1	Crowd at Battery waits anxiously! Where are they?
11	NEWS2	Nungesser, Coli lost!
12	NEWS1	Paris Fears Worst!
13	NEWS2	Navy ready for search! (MUSIC FADING/OUT)
14	MUSIC UNDER	
15	NARR	May 10 San Diego. All the details have been attended
16		to: all the bills paid, Lindbergh's bank account closed.
17		No word on Nungesser and Coli, but the worst is
18 19		feared. Lindbergh has waited for 2 days for the weather to clear, and it finally has. MUSIC OUT
	DQEY: EN	GINE UNDER
20	_	
21	MAHONE	1 3 3 1
22 23		say they'll have that new earth-inductor compass ready for you when you arrive in New York.
	OT IM	
2425	SLIM	Good. I stopped for a few minutes to say good-bye to the men in the factory, and to tell them again what a
26		grand job I think they've done on my plane.
27	MAHONE	Y They're as pleased as you are about the
28		performance of the Spirit of St Louis. As if they all had
29		a royal flush.
30	SLIM	We'll be fine. So long.
31	MAHONE	Y So long. SFX PLANE TAKING OFF

1	SFX: RADIO SIGNAL	
2	NEWS1	May 10. Hope dwindles. Rumors of sightings of Nungesser prove false.
4 5	NEWS2	Experts doubt Nungesser, Coli or their plane could survive long.
6	NEWS1	French Air circles grieved by crash.
7	MUSIC U	P AND UNDER + ENGINE?
8 9	NARR	After an overnight stop at St Louis, Curtiss Field, Long Island, lies just ahead. (MUSIC OUT)
10 11	RSFX: AIF	RPLANE ENGINE FOR 3 SECONDS, THEN AIRPLANE COMING TO A STOP, ENGINE IDLING
12	BIZ/SFX	CROWD NOISES, ENGINE IDLING UNDER
13	(CURTISS	
14 15 16	`	houting, off mic) Keep clear of the propeller! It can cut you in two! Look out! Get out of the way, you darned fools!Hey, pal, Taxi her over to this hangar!
17	SLIM (sho	outing) I'd be glad to.
18	SFX	ENGINE OFF (CURTISS FIELD HANGER)
19 20	CASEY	Welcome to Curtiss Field. What a circus. I'm Casey Jones
21 22	SLIM (awa	ed) Casey Jones, the Curtiss test pilot? Casey Jones, War ace?
23	CASEY	And Airport manager, and everything else.
24 25	SLIM	It's certainly a pleasure to meet <i>you</i> . Charles Lindbergh. (shake hands?) Most folks call me Slim.
26 27	CASEY	I've got one of the hangars ready for you, Slim. You must have made a fast flight.
28	SLIM	Yep, just over 7 hours from St Louis.
29 30	CASEY	That makes a total oflet's see21 hours 20 minutes from San Diego. <i>That's</i> something to crow about. You

1 2		clipped 5 hours 30 minutes from the record! Great job!
3	SFX FOO	TSTEPS (note: Slim doesn't like being interrupted by
4		Blythe. Wright's name is still mud, and he's talking to
5		one of his heroes, Casey Jones)
6	BLYTHE ((fast) Mr. Lindbergh, I'm Dick Blythe. I represent the
7		Wright Aeronautical Corporation. They've instructed
8		me to offer you all the help they can give.
9 10	SLIM (tire	ed) Thanks. (turns back to Casey) Casey, I won't need a whole hanger, just room enough for my plane.
11	CASEY	I thought you'd want to have one with lights. This is
12		it.
13	SLIM	I'd like to have an expert mechanic check over the
14		engine.
15	CASEY (q	k) You bet.
16	SLIM	It hasn't had much time in the air, but I want to be
17		sure that
18	BLYTHE ((cutting in) We've got the best Whirlwind men in the
19		country right here waiting. I think you know Ken Boedecker.
20	Von	
21	Ken	Hi, Slim!
22	SLIM (sm	iling) Glad to see you, Boadie.
23	BLYTHE ((fast) He's one of the corporation's field service
24		representatives. And this is Ed Mulligan—
25	ED	Hello, Mr. Lindbergh.
26	SLIM	Nice to meet you.
27	BLYTHE ((continuing/fast) They're assigned exclusively to your
28		plane, as long as you need 'em. I haven't told you
29		about myself. I handle Wright's public relations.
30	SLIM	Fine, fine. Casey, I want to phone about my compass
31		in the morning.

1 2 3	BLYTHE (qk) You don't need to bother about that. Brice Goldsborough, from Pioneer Instruments, is just over here
4 5 6	SLIM (ama	azed) Casey, you mean <i>all</i> the organizations I planned on contacting have their representatives right here on Curtiss Field? Ready to go? For gosh sakes.
7 8 9	CASEY	They've been pestering me for days. Umlauf, from Vacuum Oil Company, has been the worst. Always wanting to know when he can deliver your California gas and oil.
l 1 l 2	SLIM	Casey, I've got a question for you—why hasn't the Bellanca taken off yet?
13 14 15 16	CASEY	Personnel trouble. They can't decide who's going to fly, and they've taken it to court. There's been a lot of squabbling. Acosta withdrew—he's going to fly with Byrd.
17 18 19	BLYTHE (fast) Wright Aeronautical is in the difficult position of having its Whirlwind engines in all the New York-to-Paris planes.
20 21	KEN	Don't I know it. I'm just living at the airfield these days.
22	CASEY	And not paying us any rent, either.
23 24 25 26 27	BLYTHE (fast) You've certainly got the rival camps stirred up. The press boys say it looks as though mechanics are going to work all night on both the Fokker and the Bellanca. O SIGNAL
28 29 30 31 32	NEWS1	May 13, New York Times. Lindbergh set to go! What promises to be the most spectacular race ever held-3600 miles over the open sea to Parismay start tomorrow morning. Three trans-Atlantic planes are on Curtiss and Roosevelt Fields, within a short distance of each other, ready to take the air.

1 2 3		Observers at the field look to Lindbergh as a dark horse in the race.
4 5 6	NEWS2	May 14. New York. Bellanca Plane, spurred by Lindbergh's arrival, is ready to go! Spirit of St Louis and America joining their rival here for the hop-off.
7 8	NEWS1	Weather at sea still bad. Ships continue to hunt Nungesser.
9	SFX: FOO	OTSTEPS, (SPINNER BEING CARRIED)
10	(CURTISS	S FIELD HANGER)
11 12	ED (worri	led)(effort) I hope this is gonna be okay with Slim. Man, this propeller is heavy.
13 14	KEN (effo	rt) Yeah, he might have a heart attack when he gets back to find his plane missing her prop.
15 16	ED (defer	nding) But those guys from the Curtiss Company wouldn't take no for an answer.
17 18	KEN (effo	rt) I know. It wasn't their plane, but they weren't going to let Lindbergh fly with a cracked spinner.
19	ED (effort) Well, at least it ain't gonna cost him anything.
20 21	KEN (effo	rt) All I can say isit'd better be back <i>before</i> he decides to fly!
22	MUSIC U	P AND UNDER
23	NARR	Everywhere Lindbergh turns it's the same way.
24		Bellanca and Chamberlin stop by to wish him well.
25 26		Commander Byrd comes to his hangar to extend a welcome, and to offer Lindbergh the use of Byrd's <i>own</i>
20 27		upgraded runway, Roosevelt Field, for his take-off.
28		Byrd even offers the use of his weather information.
29		(MUSIC OUT)
30	SFX: RAD	IO SIGNAL
31 32	NEWS2	May 15. Flyin' Fool may hop today! Adopts mystery air, indicating quick take-off.

1	NEWS2	May 16: Atlantic weather: stormy with fog
2	SFX:	INSTALLING THE COMPASS=TURNING SCREWS?
3 4 5 6	BRICE	Charlie, that's the best place I can find for the earth-inductor compass. It'll give you a more accurate indication up there than any other place we can find. It'll swing less in rough air.
7 8	SLIM	The most important thing is to have it accurate and steady.
9 10 11	BRICE	You sure don't haven't any extra room in here, to put it anywheres else. But you'll have to read it through a mirror.
12	SLIM	I don't mind reading it backwards.
13 14	BRICE	Okay. There she stays then. Who's got a mirror around here? (Pat: "Mister!")
15	BIZ: seve	ral guys: "Not me." "Sorry." "Left it in the other suit."
16	SFX: SNA	AP OF PURSE CLASP, RUMMAGING IN BAG
17	CASEY	There's one on the wall in the office. (Pat: Mister!)
18 19	BRICE	No, that's too big. It ought to be about 2 inches square.
20	PAT	Mister, will my compact mirror do?
21	BRICE	Sure, lady, that'd do it.
22	DAT	
	PAT	Here you go.
232425	SLIM	Here you go. Thank you, ma'am. Brice, I can supply some chewing gum so you can stick it on. (smack of lips) Here you go.
24		Thank you, ma'am. Brice, I can supply some chewing gum so you can stick it on. (smack of lips) Here you

	TORMS/RAIN DIO SIGNAL
NEWS2	May 17: Heavy rain throughout most of the East Coast. Maine covered in dense fog, extending up into Canada.
NEWS1	May 18: fog and gale force winds continue to lash the Eastern seaboard. Small craft warnings are in effect.
NEWS2	May 19: sky is overcast; light rain falling. Dense fog shrouds the coasts of Nova Scotia and Newfoundland, and a storm area is developing to the west of France.
SFX	RAIN IN BACKGROUND MUSIC CUE
NARR	Having endured day after day of bad weather, with more in the forecast, Lindbergh accepted Dick Blythe's invitation to see the hot Broadway show "Rio Rita" from backstage. But on the way to the theatre, they stopped at Doc Kimball's for another weather check. MUSIC OUT
SFX	SQUISHY FOOTSTEPS, DOOR OPEN/CLOSE.
BLYTHE	(fast) Doc says the weather over the ocean is clearing, although you couldn't prove it by me. He says it's a sudden change. The low-pressure area over Newfoundland is receding. Of course, conditions aren't good all along your route.
SLIM	Let's go to the field. It sounds better than anything we've had so far. If we get ready to fly tonight, I can do it. The haze is too thick and the ceiling too low to fly her over to Roosevelt Field right now. But early tomorrow morning
MUSIC E	BRIDGE 2C35
SFX: (CL	OCK DINGS 3)DOOR OPEN/CLOSE /FOOTSTEPS
SLIM (ya	wning) G'Morning, Boadie.
KEN	Slim! Didn't you get my message?
SLIM	What message?

1 2 3	KEN	be able to tow Spirit over there. I thought you could use the sleep.
4	SLIM (mu	ittering/yawning)
5 6		That's good. It was impossible to get any sleep. I kept going over and over the navigation points. "Twenty
7 8 9		miles past the Massachusetts coast, change course to 71 degrees. Proceed for 100 miles. Then change course to 74. Allow for wind"
10 11	ED (comin	ng on) Say, those Curtiss boys have been a real help; they've been working with us all night.
12	SLIM	And I kept worrying about something else.
13	KEN	What was that, Slim?
14	SLIM	I might not win the Orteig prize, even if I get to Paris.
15	ED	Why not? If you get there, you'd've earned it
16	SLIM	Well, I didn't get my registration to them in time. My
17 18 19 20		partners in St Louis told me to go ahead, but if I don't get the prize, I won't be able to pay them back You know, a fella couldn't have asked for better partners. They're always behind me whenever I need help.
21	SFX	DOOR OPEN/CLOSE, FOOTSTEPS
22 23	CASEY	I thought I'd find you here, Slim. You look a little shell-shocked.
24 25	SLIM	It's just too early. Casey, is anybody else getting ready to start?
26 27 28	CASEY	Nobody's showing. Byrd is going to run some more tests. There have been lights in the Bellanca hangar but not enough activity to indicate a takeoff.
29	SLIM	What are the last reports on weather?
30 31	CASEY	I hear rumors of it improving. Did you get any sleep last night?

1	SLIM	Oh, a little. It'll have to do. Come on, let's get her out	
2		of here.	
3	MUSIC BRIDGE		
4	RADIO SI	GNAL (Reporter 2 is on filter mic) background:	
5		crowd noise	
6	RPTR2(F)	Ladies and Gentlemen of the radio audience. I'm here	
7		at Roosevelt Field, in the wet, to watch the Flying Fool	
8		get ready to fly off on his dream. It's close to 7:30 in	
9		the morning on May 19. The rain has let up, leaving	
10 11		the ground soggy and muddy. Lindbergh puts his flightsuit on, and sliding himself into the tiny cockpit.	
12		He buckles himself into the plane with a seatbelt.	
13		(SFX ENGINE STARTS) The engine reluctantly starts.	
14		Dick Blythe hands him a sack that contains five	
15		sandwiches, I'm told, and a bottle of water.	
16	RSFX	ENGINE REVVING (CROWD NOISE IN	
17	BACKGRO	<u>DUND)</u>	
18 19	SLIM	As we say in the airmail: No flight, no pay. I might as well go. So long.	
20	CASEY &	ED So long, Charlie. Good luck.	
21	RSFX: EN	GINE REVS, AS PLANE STARTS DOWN FIELD UNDER	
22 23 24 25	REPRTR2	(F) The plane waddles down the runway, lurching from side to side to compensate for the unevenness of the ground and the heavy amount of fuel onboard. That fuel weighs more than the plane's total weight.	
26		Now he's past his mark of no return, a white flag	
27		on a stick. He pulls her upand then she's down. Not	
28		quite ready to fly. He pulls her upuphe's off the	
29		ground! Just barely. Come on, come on	
30 31 32 33		He's cleared the tractor by ten feet. And he's over the gully. Can he clear the telephone lines at the end of the field? Friends of his are down there with fire extinguishersjust in case.	
34	CASEY	Come on, Charlie! (BIZ: CROWD CHEERING HIM ON)	

1 2	REPTR2 (F) He's at the telephone lines, still climbing. He'she's over! Cleared them by a scant 20 feet.
3	BIZ: WILD	O CHEERS
4 5	REPTR2 (I	,
6	SFX:	WALL OF NOISE FROM THE CROWD UP FOR 7 SECONDS
7	(HISTORY)	BACK TO THE FUTURE SFX: MUSEUM BACKGROUND
8	SARAH	Did he make it? Did he get to Paris?
9 10 11 12	DOCENT	He sure did. After worrying about not knowing anyone over there, about not speaking French, and not having a visa, he found the airfield covered with people running for his plane.
13	SARAH	Gee, Dad, how many people were there?
14 15	DAD	Oh, a couple of hundredthousand. First traffic jam Paris ever had.
16 17 18	FRANK	I heard that Lindbergh was dragged out of the cockpit after he landed, and they carried around on their shoulders for hours.
19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26	DOCENT	It was probably not more than a half-hour, but I'm sure it seemed like eternity. He really wanted to get back to Spirit, to make sure she was okay, but he couldn't do it. [One of the French pilots grabbed Lindbergh's helmet, crammed it down on the head of a tall American reporter and told the crowd "Here's Lindbergh". Off the reporter was carried, protesting all the way.]
27 28	SARAH	Was his plane okay?

1	DOCENT	The police finally got it into a hanger, but not before
2		people had ripped pieces of it off as souvenirs. And someone stole his log book. That always bothered him.
	CADAII	· ·
4	SARAH	How awful! What happened to Charlie?
5	DOCENT	Three French pilots bundled him into a small car and
6		took him to Paris on the back roads. They didn't speak
7 8		English, and he couldn't speak French. They insisted on stopping at the Arc d'Triomphe as his first stop in
9		Paris. They felt it was only fitting.
10	SARAH	Then where'd he go? To a hotel?
11	DAD	No, Sarah, they wouldn't take him to a hotel. They
12		delivered him to the American Embassy. 'Course, the
13		Ambassador was stuck in the airport traffic, and
14		didn't get back home until 3 am.
15	DOCENT	Ambassador Herrick took him under his wing, and
16		had him stay at the Embassy. After being awake for
17		63 hours, Lindbergh finally got to go to sleep. The
18 19		Ambassador's valet even found a suit for the American to wear, while a rush order of clothes was being made.
20	FRANK	What about the other racers? What happened to
21		them?
22	DOCENT	The Bellanca plane, with Chamberlin as pilot, and
23		Charles Levine on board, took off from New York on
24		June 4. They got lost and ran out of gas, after 43
25		hours, and crashed in Germany.
26	SARAH	How many hours did Charlie and Spirit take?
27	DAD	Thirty-three and a half.
28	SARAH	And his plane has been here ever since.
29		

1 2 3	DOCENT	Not exactly. Oh, we sent him a telegram, which got to the Embassy before he did, asking him to donate Spirit of St Louis to the Smithsonian.
4	PAT	Did he get to see any of Europe?
5	DOCENT	Oh, yes, He flew Spirit to Brussels and to London, but
6 7		when President Coolidge sent the USS Memphis to get him, he figured he had to come back home. Lindbergh
8 9		flew Spirit around for another year, going to 82 cities within the 48 states.
10	DAD	Sarah, he even landed in Seattle, at Sand Point, on
11		Sept. 13, 1927, before going on to his next stop in Portland. [Along the way, he dropped greetings on
12 13		every town and city he passed over.]
14	DOCENT	And then he flew on a tour of Central and South
15		American cities, demonstrating how safe and punctual
16 17		flying could be, and the need for airports. Spirit of St Louis made her last flight on April 30, 1928. She flew
18		a total of 789 hours, 28 minutes—Lindbergh was her
19		only pilot.
20	PAT	Didn't he write a book about it?
21	DOCENT	Oh, he wrote several books about it. The first one was
22 23		called "WE", in 1927, and then he wrote "The Spirit of St Louis" in 1954. That one won the Pultizer Prize.
24	PAT	Didn't they make a movie of it?
25	DOCENT	Yes, ma'am, in 1957, with Jimmy Stewart.
26	SARAH	But what did he get, if you got his plane?
27	DOCENT	Well, Spirit got a home
28	ED (qk)	I heard he got the Medal of Honor.
29		

1	DOCENT	Yes, yes, he did, and the Distinguished Flying Cross—
2		the first one ever awarded. Every nation and city gave
3		him awards—most of them are at the St Louis
4		Museum. Spirit of St Louis made us famous for
5		aviation. 30,000 people came that first day she was
6		here.
7	SARAH	But, mister, what did he get?
8	DAD	Sarah
9	DOCENT	He got his own air-mail stamp, and the Air Mail was
10		carrying an extra 50,000 pounds of mail by August of
11		'27—with his stamp on each one.
12	PAT	He did win the Orteig Prize, didn't he?
13	DOCENT	Oh, yes, yes. It was personally awarded to him in New
14		York. When Lindbergh tried to pay his partners back
15		the \$13,000 Spirit had cost, they refused to accept it.
16	SARAH	But, mister, what did he get from the Smithsonian?
17	DAD	Now, Sarah
18	DOCENT	I know it may not seem like much, but the
19		Smithsonian gave him a life-time membership. (pause)
20		I met him, you know. Lots of times he'd wander into
21		the old museum, his hat pulled down low over his
22		face, stand away from the crowd and he'd stare up
23		there—at his Spirit—the Spirit of St Louis. (fading SFX
24		ALSO FADES) Now, if we can move down this way,
25		there's lots of other planes to see
26	MUSIC U	P AND THEN UNDER

27

FRANK "Spirit" was written and directed by Joy Jackson. In our cast you heard:

3