



Pilot's Plane

Pilot ruffled through the papers on his drawing board. He grinned; his plans were coming along brilliantly. He pulled his lamp closer to inspect his drawings and then went back to his building. KNOCK, TAP, TAP, TAP, KNOCK, KNOCK.

The Loopies living next door to Pilot were all very excited. They couldn't wait to find out what it was that Pilot was getting up to each night. Every night they would hear loud banging and hammering, knocking, nailing and tapping sounds coming from his workshop.

The Loopies were so inquisitive that Jingle, Pilot's next door neighbour, had placed a ladder against the wall to peer over into Pilot's yard and stare right into his workshop with his binoculars! Pilot got so angry he shot marbles at Jingle with his slingshot and broke his binoculars lenses!

Later that day Crumpet went over to Pilot's house. She had brought him a big Apple-pie, Pilot really liked Apple-pie, so Crumpet thought she would be able to bribe him with it to see what he was up to. But Pilot was too clever for Crumpet. "Thanks for the trouble!" he said grabbing the pie and slamming the door. "But I thought that I could come in and see what you're busy with?" protested Crumpet. But all she could hear were the muffled noises of Pilot tucking into the juicy Apple-pie. "That's it! No more freebies for him!" said Crumpet, fuming.

Pilot went back to his workshop. He was expecting Rufus and Ruff to drop by later with some paint and needed to finish up before they came. It wasn't long before Pilot heard the two brothers walking up the lane to his house. "Hold her steady Ruff, we're nearly there." said Rufus, as he and Ruff slopped some paint out of the bucket they were carrying. Pilot locked up his workshop and went out to meet his two friends.

"So what's the paint for Pilot?" asked Ruff inquisitively. "Well I suppose everyone will find out soon enough. Can you keep a secret?" asked Pilot. Rufus smiled at his brother Ruff. "Ruff and I are the kings of secret keeping in Acersville!" Pilot took them into his workshop and switched on the light. "A plane!" gasped Rufus. "How will you power it?" asked Ruff. "With extra sweetened ginger-beer!" he grinned. "Can you do that?" asked Rufus quite puzzled. "I assure you that I know of no law against the use of ginger-beer while driving – especially while flying!" replied Pilot.

Rufus and Ruff agreed to paint a big poster of Pilot's plane and hang it in Acer Square early the next morning, along with clearly marked signs stating the time and place of Pilot's take-off. Pilot was pleased and said goodbye to his friends. He then set to work on painting his plane.

The next day the Square was buzzing with excitement. All the Loopies had seen the posters and began making their way up to Buttercup Clearing on top of Sentinel Hill to watch Pilot make his triumphant first flight.

They cheered when they saw Pilot's plane but Pilot motioned for them to settle down. "Start me up boys!" he said to Rufus and Ruff, who were standing ready. They began to clip corked bottles of extra sweetened carbonated ginger-beer in place under the wings of Pilot's plane. Ruff showed Pilot a thumbs up when all the bottles were in place. Pilot smiled, slung his scarf triumphantly over his shoulder and peddled his plane down the hill.

As Pilot raced his plane down the hill all the bumping and rattling caused the ginger-beer bottles to shake violently. And we all know what happens when you shake carbonated drinks! Pop, pop, pop. One by one the corks began to pop off of the bottles, giving Pilot's plane more and more power. Eventually Pilot was half way down the hill and the last cork popped off. It gave Pilot enough power to swoop into the air like a red eagle.

Up, up, up he soared and then leveled and ... he was flying!!

The Loopies below could hardly believe their eyes. They clapped and cheered. Pilot marveled as he flew! It was so beautiful to see Acersville from so high up! Mayor Piney from down below began smiling as he imagined himself flying in to his next election.

Eventually Pilot landed. The Loopies stormed towards Pilot. "Can we have a chance too?" they asked. Pilot smiled, "Of course!" he said, "Just one at a time though!" The Loopies cheered. The rest of that day the Loopies took turns flying in Pilot's plane, what an exciting day!

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