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**Jumperette**

An Aviation executive and two parachute jumpers were discussing a future test job.

"Sure, I need the money," concluded one jumper. "Only I need my health, too." The other jumper nodded agreement.

The executive looked perplexed. "Okay boys," he said, "Now, tell me. Who in the devil am I going to get to test that new chute?"

Both men thought awhile. Presently one spoke up. "Boss, why don't you ask Adeline Gray?"

Only he didn't have to. Adeline Gray beat him to the punch. She volunteered for the job. A slender, quiet, golden-haired girl, she is the first and only woman parachute tester in the country today.

At 24, with 35 jumps to her credit, Adeline looks more like a settled housewife than a daring professional ‘chutist and accom-plished pilot. She started in aviation as a kid in Connecticut. "My parents objected to my taking flying lessons," she explains, "so I got a job after school to pay for them."

An experienced pilot at 21, Adeline then set out to study the art of parachute jumping. She went to an instructor at the Hartford airport and quietly told him what she wanted to do.

"What's the matter with you?" he asked. "You got rocks in your head? A woman isn't built to stand that sort of stuff. Go home and forget about it."

But not Adeline. She insisted and she made the grade. After Pearl Harbor, she went to work for the Pioneer Parachute Co. "The first parachute made of nylon was put together in our plant," she says proudly. "And I was the one who volunteered to test it.

This was an all-important task. If the nylon held up, it meant we could do without Jap silk for our parachutes.

Adeline made the jump at 2,000 feet. She says: "I had but one thought as I floated down –'Please, Lord, this is one time I don't want any runs in my nylon!'"

– Kenyon Lee

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