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*Please Mention Popular Mechanics*

The last owners of the land that is today's Camp Potomac Woods, before it was purchased by the Arlington Girl Scout council in 1948, were Victor & Mary Lougheed. Mr. Lougheed was an accomplished author and inventor, a genius with a fourth-grade education.

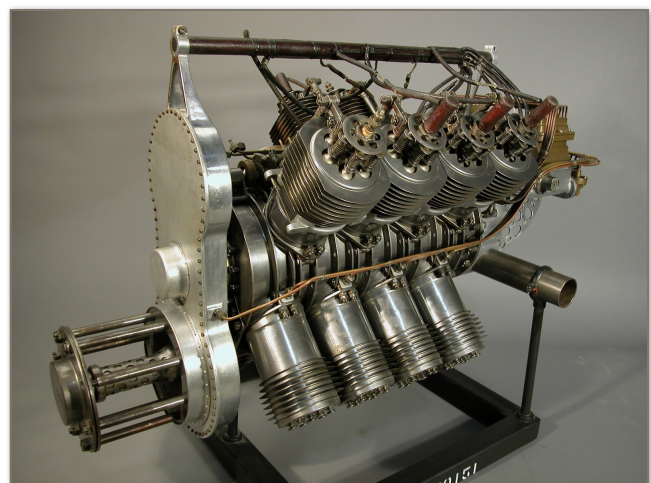
His last name, Lougheed, was pronounced "Lockheed," just like the modern-day aerospace company. That is no coincidence. The founders of today's aerospace firm, Lockheed-Martin, were Victor Lougheed's two younger half-brothers, Allan and Malcolm Lougheed, who changed the old Scottish spelling of their name to the more phonetic spelling, Lockheed.

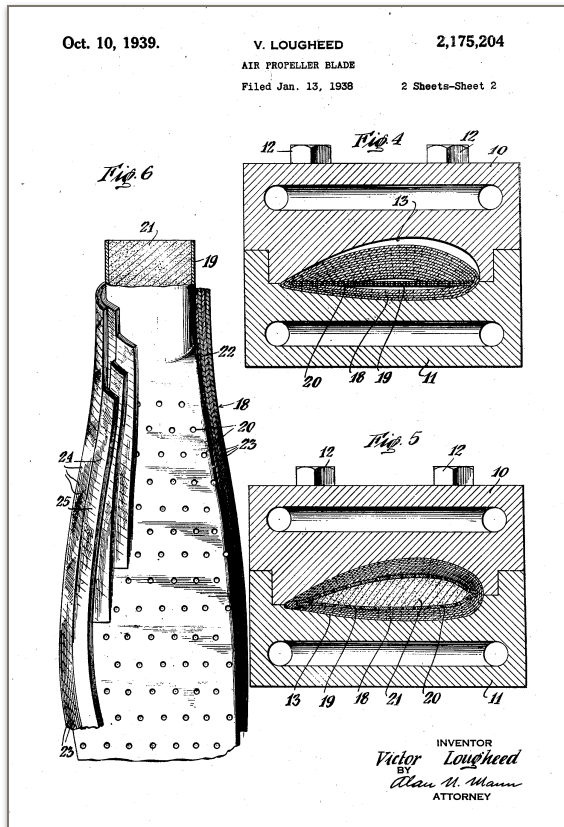
Victor Lougheed began his career as an automotive engineer in the early 1900s, and soon thereafter, when hired to try to install an automobile engine in an early airplane glider, became one of the very first aeronautical engineers.

Victor Lougheed was at the forefront of the airplane design revolution, as both a mechanical engineer and as an author. In 1909, only six years after the Wright Brothers' first powered flight, Victor Lougheed published his comprehensive book on the history of flight, "Vehicles of the Air." He also published many other books and magazine articles on automobile design and aviation advancements.

Although he didn't work at the Lockheed company due to a disagreement with his brothers, Victor Lougheed was a designer of airplane engines, wings and propellers. His "Taft-Pierce-Lougheed V-8 Engine," built in 1911, is on display in the Boeing Aviation Hangar at the Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center, Smithsonian Air & Space Museum in Chantilly, Virginia.

In the 1930s, Mr. & Mrs. Lougheed purchased this property outside of Lucketts, Virginia for their home and his





workshop. He worked as a freelance inventor and as a consulting engineer. Mr. Lougheed had many patents (inventions) to his name, some of which were for designs he created while living right here. His patents included designs for automobile wheels and brakes, airplane wings and propellers, plastic mold casting, a new type of radio knob for Magnavox, a nipple for baby bottles, and a new type of safe electric razor.

In his final years, just prior to World War II, Mr. Lougheed was employed by the U.S. Navy Bureau of Aeronautics. One or more of his inventions involved testing his designs using a wind tunnel. It is rumored that Victor Lougheed's wind tunnel is buried somewhere beneath Camp Potomac Woods.

Victor and Mary Lougheed lived in an old farmhouse, demolished in the 1950s, which was located between today's flagpole and

Administration building. The house, used as a camp headquarters and infirmary by the Girl Scouts, was dubbed "Termite Hill" due to its decrepit condition. The fire pit which today is located directly behind Kresge Dining Hall, sits in a depression where the basement of Termite Hill was located before it was backfilled with gravel and covered over with soil.

Victor Lougheed died in an automobile accident in New York City in 1943, at the age of 66. The 101 acres of land that constitute Camp Potomac Woods was purchased by the Arlington Girl Scout Council (predecessor to the current GSCNC) on May 8, 1948 from Mary Lougheed, widow. The first scouting season opened only a month later, on June 19, 1948, under the name "Arlington Girl Scout Camp." The property was given its permanent name of "Camp Potomac Woods" in 1949.

