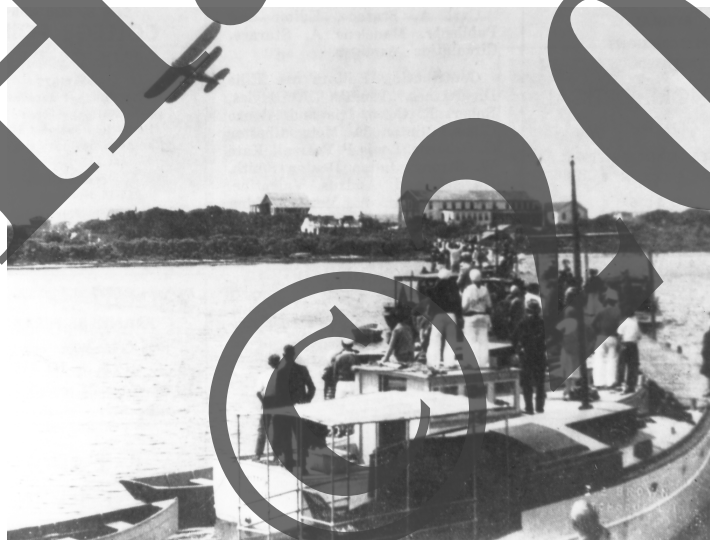




A tragic accident in Patchogue took the lives of the two occupants of this plane. On Wednesday, March 4, 1937, this plane crashed in the empty lot on Division Street, across from the Patchogue railroad station. Apparently there was a malfunction of the engine and the pilot tried to make a forced landing in the small field, which nowadays is the school yard of the Holy Angels Regional School.



A bet was made between Fremont Abrams, a Blue Point florist and owner of the speediest boat on the bay, and Herb Austin, president of the Patchogue Wing of the Suffolk Flyers, who could cross the Great South Bay in the shortest time. To give the race some meaning, it was decided to give each of the contestants a sack of mail, each containing 1750 pieces of mail, to be delivered from the Patchogue post office on South Ocean Avenue, corner Terry Street, to the Cherry Grove post office on Fire Island. The boat departed from the South Ocean Avenue dock and the plane from the Bayport airfield. The race started 10:25 a.m. July 4, 1929. The plane won only by seconds, because it had to make three passes before it could drop the mail bag successfully on the beach.



The plane over Cherry Grove. This race was watched by many thousands of people on shore and on boats.