LAFAYETTE'S FIRST AIR SHIPMENT

An airplane shipment on Monday, March 23, from the New Orleans branch office of the Electrical Research Products, Inc., to the Jefferson Theatre of Lafayette consisting of parts for the sound equipment of the theatre which were damaged during an electrical storm, marked the first commercial air shipment to Lafayette and an important event in the aviation history of this city.

Immediately after receiving a phone message from the local theatre manager, a representative of the Western Electric Company took off from New Orleans in a plane furnished by the Wedell-Williams Company. The trip was made in one hour and thirty-five minutes, a distance of about 125 miles by air despite adverse winds which forced the pilot to change his course more than fifty miles. Neither the pilot nor his passenger had ever made a trip by air to Lafayette but a perfect landing was made at 6:35 p.m. on the emergency field at the Municipal Golf Course. Repairs to the sound equipment were made by the representative of the Electrical Research Co. who brought with him a number of parts for the machine, and the show was resumed at 7:25 p.m. The aviators left next morning and reached New Orleans in about an hour and a half.

Of greater importance possibly than the event of the first commercial shipment by air to Lafayette or the speed of the shipment, is the fact that the plane was furnished by a Louisiana aviation company domiciled in New Orleans with a subsidiary at Patterson, Louisiana. This company, the Wedell-Williams Company, pioneers in the history of Louisiana aviation, is furnishing a service which promises to speed up the building of airports and other accommodations for air travel.

Lafayette has realized the importance of air travel and has provided funds for the construction of a modern airport. In a few months the airport will be ready for use and will be equipped for practically any emergency that may arise in accommodating aircraft.