

Charles Augustus Lindbergh was a pioneer of the air. He was the first man to fly non-stop across the Atlantic Ocean. He took off from New York at dawn on May 20, 1927, and landed in Paris 33 and one-half hours later.

"Lucky Lindy" and the "Lone Eagle" was what they called him when he returned to New York. Millions of people turned out to welcome him. He was hardly more than a boy, but his daring flight made him a world hero. He was the father of modern aviation.

He was born in Detroit on February 4, 1902, the son of Charles Augustus Lindbergh and Eva Land.



But he grew up in Little Falls, Minnesota, where Pike Creek flows into the Mississippi River.



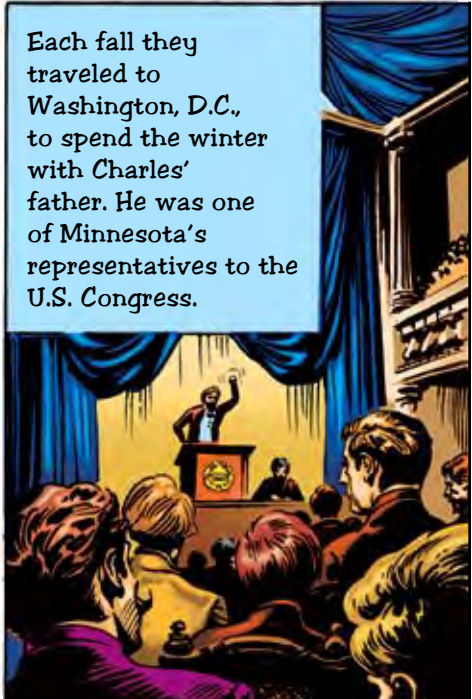
He lived there with his mother for most of every year.

Thank you, Charles.



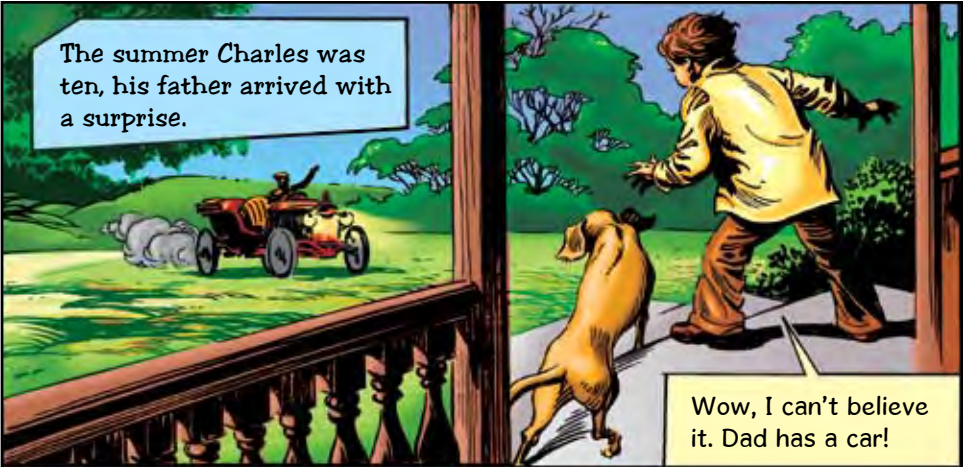
My pleasure, Mother.

Each fall they traveled to Washington, D.C., to spend the winter with Charles' father. He was one of Minnesota's representatives to the U.S. Congress.





*a nocturnal bird with a loud repeated call suggestive of its name



The summer Charles was ten, his father arrived with a surprise.

Wow, I can't believe it. Dad has a car!



That summer with his father at the wheel, Charles rode on the running boards of the car.

This is much more fun than riding inside!



And when his father went to Washington that fall, Charles taught himself to drive.

Now you be careful, Charles!

I will, Mother.

Soon he was driving his mother everywhere.



I'm so glad you learned to drive, Charles. This is most helpful.

In the summer of 1913, Charles' father came home to campaign for the 1914 election. Charles was waiting at the depot.

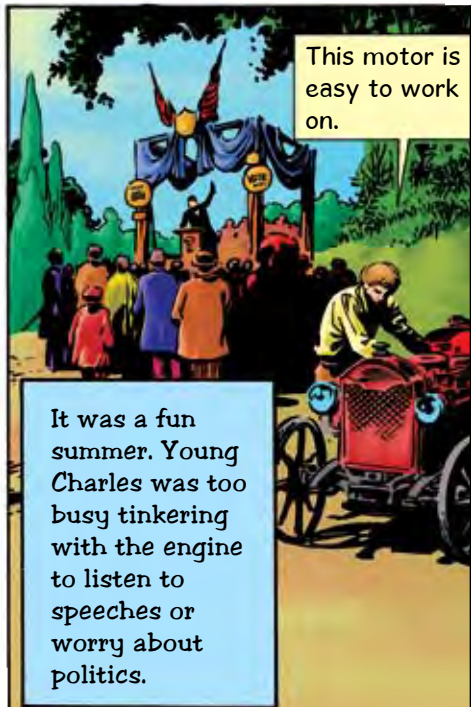


Young Charles drove the car here?

What a surprise!

Mom said that I could drive around with you this summer.

I don't see why not, you're better at this than I am.



This motor is easy to work on.

It was a fun summer. Young Charles was too busy tinkering with the engine to listen to speeches or worry about politics.