

Flying high pays off in record

EDMONTON — (CP) — For Lucille Haley it was the high point of her flying career — and a Canadian record.

She took off in a single-engined Fleet Canuck and 115 minutes later was 18,700 feet above Edmonton, eclipsing her record of 18,300 feet set in December, 1968, for that class — weight and horsepower — of plane.

"I was aiming for 20,000 feet," said the 34-year-old pilot, who is an instructor at the Edmonton Flying Club. "I'm convinced now that this is impossible for this kind of plane unless you hit peculiar conditions like an upward draught."

Despite the record, set in March, Miss Haley is not going to file it with the Royal Canadian Flying Club Association in Ottawa. Such a process costs more than \$200, and since she's aiming to break it again within a year, she has decided against the expense.

"Present funds are depleted."

Although her previous records were set in winter, she is going to try again this summer when conditions might be good for up-draughts.

ICE IN HER HAIR

When she came down from her record flight, she had ice in her hair and was shivering despite her thick thermal clothing. As warm air escaped from her oxygen mask it turned to drips as it condensed, then froze. The thermometer in the cockpit read 35 below at the top of the flight.

"I was at 10,000 feet after 30 minutes. I waited five minutes for clearance, then got up another 7,000 feet in about 25 minutes.

"That's when you start to work. The next 1,700 feet took me 55 minutes."

It was difficult to climb in thin air. She made her height by climbing in an upward spiral over about a five-mile radius.

"You level out, gain speed,

and then go into a climb. You make maybe 25 or 50 feet at a time. And it gets less and less."

She said that at the top she put the nose of the plane down to level off and dropped 100 feet, and could only manage to make 25 feet back.

"The altimeter had recorded 18,700, so I settled for that. But I am disappointed I couldn't reach the 20,000 mark."