



Dennis Andreas

RC REPORT

Sullivan

Withstands the Test of Time

My father's handball game was the spark that began my journey into model aviation back in the mid-1960s. He played handball at Riis Park in Queens, New York, year around. In the winter months, the parking area was open to a brave breed of RC flyers.

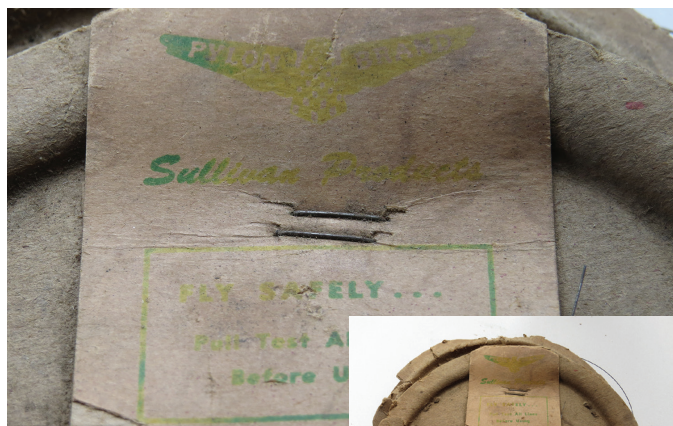
My father, seeing my interest, brought home a Wen-Mac Hovercraft. From then on, I was hooked on the smell of castor oil! Some years later, we moved into our first house in the suburbs, and I strolled into my first hobby shop located across from my junior high school. I flew control line (CL) back then, mostly because of cost and the fact our flying fields were on schoolyards. Later, I moved up to RC, again with the help of both my parents, for which I am eternally grateful.

Sullivan Products is one of the companies I used back then, and it has withstood the test of time to remain a leader in model aviation. Founded by Matthew Sullivan in the 1940s, the company's first products were lines, handles and connectors for control line flying. As popularity in CL and RC grew, so did Sullivan's product line. Those early days were a hotbed of innovation and products from garage businesses that still are successful today, like Sullivan and its associated brands.

Today, the company is based in Baltimore, Md., near the Port of Baltimore and Baltimore-Washington International Airport as well as major highway routes allowing for fast shipping.



Back in my CL days Sullivan Pylon Brand steel flying wires were the standard, as were the Perfect Brand bell cranks, horns and the like. In RC and CL, Sullivan and Perfect tanks were, and still are, the go-to tanks. Items like Golden-Rod control rods were game-changers in model construction and control.

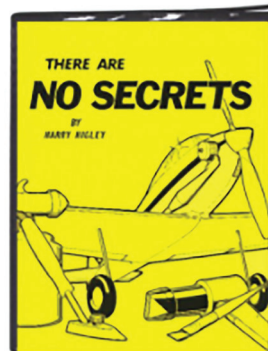


I have to believe that anyone in model aviation has at one time used or heard of Sullivan, Harry Higley and Perfect Parts. I went through my parts bin and came across many vintage items that are still relevant today. Sullivan products are seen on every flight line today. Note that the prices shown on these vintage parts are from way back, so don't give Sullivan a hard time saying they overcharged you!



As scale models grew in size and complexity, the Sullivan line of Head-Lock remote glow plug drivers and plug connections became the standard for many modelers. The time-tested Glow Plug Clip is one of my favorites and I still use one today. I'd bet every model aircraft flyer has owned a Hi-Tork Starter or a Chicken Stick for engine starting. The standard Hi-Tork model and multiple other models are available today for small glow engines to larger gassers.

The company has grown through acquisitions, adding the Skylite tire line, the Genesys System, the Megatron and various fuel system and control system components to its product lineup. There are more than 300 products in the Sullivan line alone. In addition, the company manufactures custom products for the OEM, commercial, UAV and military markets.



Also, don't forget about their line of sought-after pilot figures. They range from scale "Pappy Boyington" military figures to civilian types and some more specialized options like the skeleton pilot.



It's been hinted that Sullivan will have something new soon. We will show it here when it's ready!

If you aren't stocking Sullivan products, you should. Customers will be asking for them by name; "Do You Have a Sullivan ...". Check their website for details. **HM**

Harry Higley is another name well known to all flyers. Sullivan acquired them in the late 1980s, keeping another family name brand alive. Harry Higley may be best known for their Prop Nuts, which offer various types that provide safety, scale touch and maybe some needed nose weight for a model. Harry Higley also wrote many model aircraft How-To books available from Sullivan Products.

Sullivan
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