

CURTISS PUSHER REPLICAS - I

Pete Bowers did a wonderful job on the pushers (JAAHS Vol II pp 75-78) and I hope that this material will help out some on the areas not completed. As mentioned in the article Fig. 3 shows the pusher that may have been flown by Al Wilson in the 20's. This plane was built by Otto Timm in 1927 at Glendale, California. It was a backyard project with James Barton assisting. The original plans were used when they could be, but only for general features as a large number of Jenny parts were used including wings. This plane was featured in the motion picture "Thrills of the Air". As to whether the prewar pusher was the outcome of the Al Wilson ship is unknown to me. I saw the airshow pusher perform at Sheldon, Iowa in 1939 with Clem Honkamp at the controls.

James Barton, working with Otto Timm on the Wilson pusher, had acquired enough experience to start on a second pusher for M.G.M. studios. This ship was built in 1930 with Harry Reynolds assisting Barton. It was intended for ground shots and taxi runs only, but during the course of construction it was decided that it was to fly in the production of the film. The second pusher was constructed from memory and photos of the Wilson pusher. Jenny wings were used again. The aircraft flew fair, but due to the greater wing span it did not perform anywhere as good as the previous ship. The pusher was flown by Paul Mantz and Frank Clarke during that time, but somewhere along the line it suffered a mishap and the wings were destroyed by fire. A new set of wings were installed and the aircraft was then used in the film "Men With Wings". The last pair of wings were shorter and the aircraft flew much better than originally. We can only assume this to be the same ship that Mantz has today unless he or someone else offers further information on this.

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CURTISS PUSHER REPLICAS - II - (3378)

I recently had a fascinating talk with Otto W. Timm, and while looking through his photo albums came across two 8 x 10's of an OX-5 powered Curtiss replica pusher. "AL WILSON, 3378" appears in large letters on the rudder. The caption reads "1911 Model Curtiss Pusher built by Otto Timm in March 1927 for Al Wilson". (Editors note: This Identified registration was checked out, and runs through the 1928 to 1932 Registers. It is listed as follows: Curtiss Pusher, c/n 99, Built 1927, OX-5 engine, Identified registration 3378, owner Al Wilson, 424 North June Street, Hollywood, California.)

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CURTISS PUSHER REPLICAS - III - (N-66V, NR-10362)

There was a new "Curtiss Pusher" at the recent AFA Show at Andrews AF Base that is an addition to Pete Bowers listing. It is a brand new plane built by Billy Parker of Phillips Petroleum Co., although it has some struts and the landing gear from an earlier pusher. The license calls it a Parker-Curtiss, c/n 8, registration N-66V, with an OX-5 engine. It is beautiful looking, just as if it had just rolled out of the factory, and has "Billy Parker Exhibition Aeroplane 1914 Model" painted on the tail.

There was a replica of a Curtiss Pusher, NR-10362, powered by what looked like
(Continued on page 208)