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KEEPING UP WITH AVIATION

By ROBERT M. EWING, M.E. 2

A short time ago the T.A.T.-Maddux Airlines reduced their fare to a considerable extent, bringing it down to within the reach of those who ride the trains. That is, the new rates are approximately the same as that of trains plus pullman fare. Since then business has picked up to an astonishing extent. Rarely have there been less than two planes go out in the morning and one day three were required. The officials of the line are known to have been in conference with the designers of the Ford-Stout factory, getting details on the construction of some 35 passenger ships to supplement their present equipment of Fords of ten passenger capacity and 18 passenger Curtis "Condors."

The Guggenheim Safe Aircraft Competition award of \$100,000 was won by Curtiss with their new cabin biplane the "Tanager." This plane was the only one entered in the competition which could fulfill all of the rigorous requirements set up by the Guggenheim Foundation. The "Tanager," while unique in many ways is not as radical in design as most of the other planes entered in the competition were. It is equipped with automatic wing slots, full floating ailerons, and controllable wing flaps. The plane is of three passenger capacity and is powered with the Curtiss "Challenger" motor of 170 h.p. The dihedral is very pronounced being four degrees for both upper and lower wings. The plane attained a high speed of 110 m.p.h. and has a minimum speed of 35 m.p.h. Its absolute ceiling is 15,000 feet.

A few weeks ago a Waco airplane was flown over Dayton with an automobile motor in place of the standard airplane motor. The engine used was a six cylinder air cooled motor. It was a stock Franklin engine, developing 95 h.p. at 3100 r.p.m.

The Fairchild Aviation Corporation has placed a new airplane engine on the market in the form of a 110 h.p. six-in-line inverted air cooled motor. The engine in tests proved to be very satisfactory.

Lt. Jimmie Dolittle, famous army pilot and stunt flyer, has resigned from the army, to take over the position of head of the aviation division of the Shell Petroleum Corp. The corporation, which already owns several planes, has ordered a new Travel Air low wing monoplane of the type which won the free-for-all race at the Cleveland Air Races this summer, for his personal use.

Joseph W. Gill, who has a fellowship in the Bureau of Standards at the Engineering Experiment Station, has composed several musical numbers which have been played recently. His "Miniature Suite" was played Sunday, January 26 at the Indianola Presbyterian Church by the church orchestra there. He is in his seventh year at the University and has been studying music at the Capital College of Music here during this time along with his engineering studies. Gill plays the clarinet, piano, and pipe organ and is a pupil of Professor Grant Connel.