

# THE OMAHA SUNDAY BEE

## Nebraskans Who "Fly Their Own"



Here is Dr. F. A. Brewster of Beaver City, who finds an airplane of great value for emergency calls in his physician's practice. He has flown thousands of miles without accident in the four ships he has owned since 1919. In the cockpit of the plane in the picture is Wade Stevens, who pilots the ship a part of the time for Dr. Brewster. When Stevens is not on hand for a trip the physician flies it himself.



Curtis Friday of Haldrege is an enthusiastic airplane owner and flyer. He makes both business and pleasure flights. Friday served in the United States aviation service during the world war.



Earle Smiley of Seward enlisted in the United States air service in 1917 and after he became a pilot served at several flying fields in California. After discharge from the army in 1920 he engaged in commercial flying for several months. Recently he has been piloting his plane in air meets in Nebraska and neighboring states and also using it to fill his engagements as a judge at poultry exhibitions. "Flying," he says, "is the safest means of transportation ever developed." He has had no accidents.



J. H. Riffe, prominent Hastings jeweler and club man, pilots a Curtiss biplane when he goes out for a "little drive." "Flying is a lot more pleasurable and not nearly as dangerous as motoring," he contends. Besides its value as a pleasure "boat," he has found it profitable to rent his plane to a professional pilot for exhibition flights at county fairs and other gatherings.



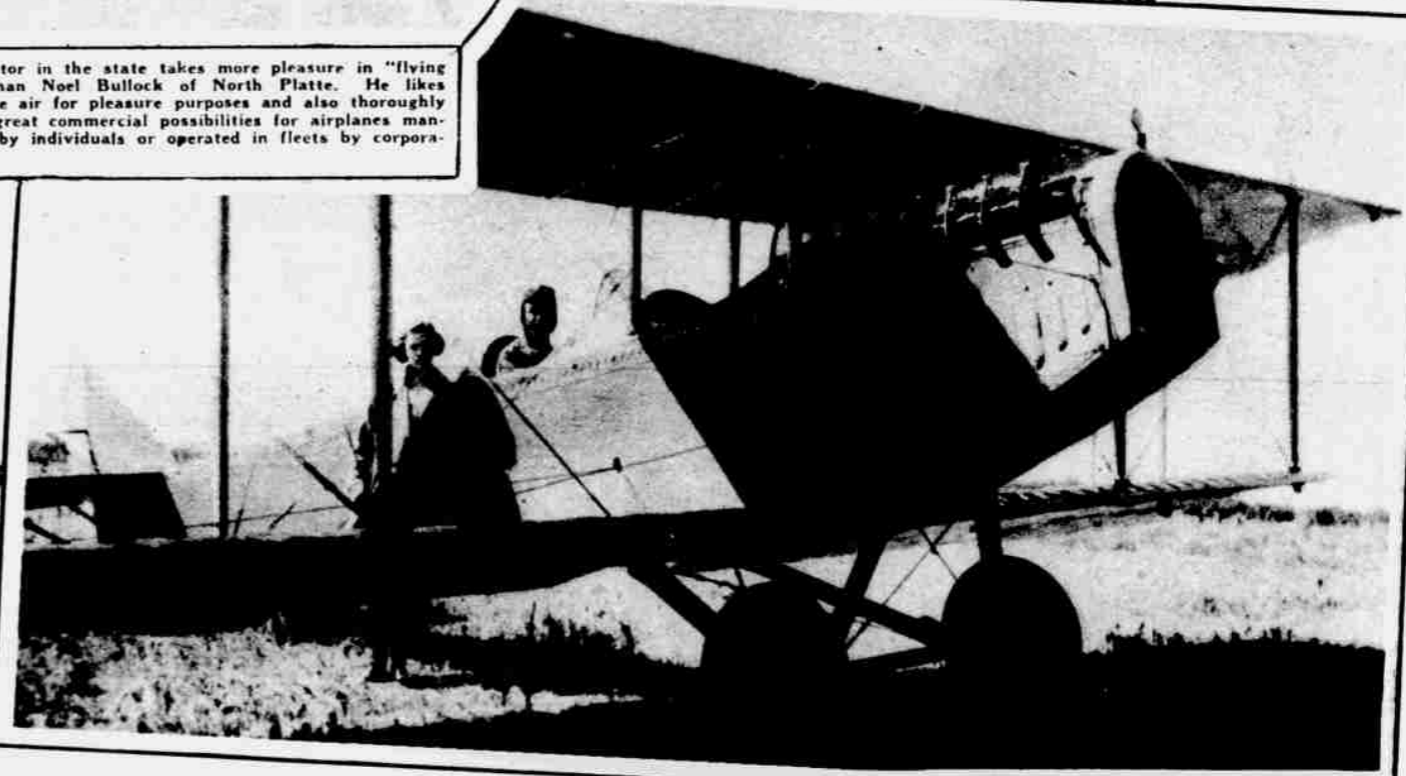
No aviator in the state takes more pleasure in "flying his own" than Noel Bullock of North Platte. He likes jaunts in the air for pleasure purposes and also thoroughly believes in great commercial possibilities for airplanes managed either by individuals or operated in fleets by corporations.



Once the propeller of his plane broke while he was taxiing along the ground. That's the closest to an accident W. A. Caldwell of Grand Island has been during two years of flying. Nebraskans, he says, are becoming thoroughly familiar with all phases of flying through numerous airplane exhibitions and races in the state. He expects this state to be far in the van in taking up the airplane for common commercial use and for private pleasure flights.



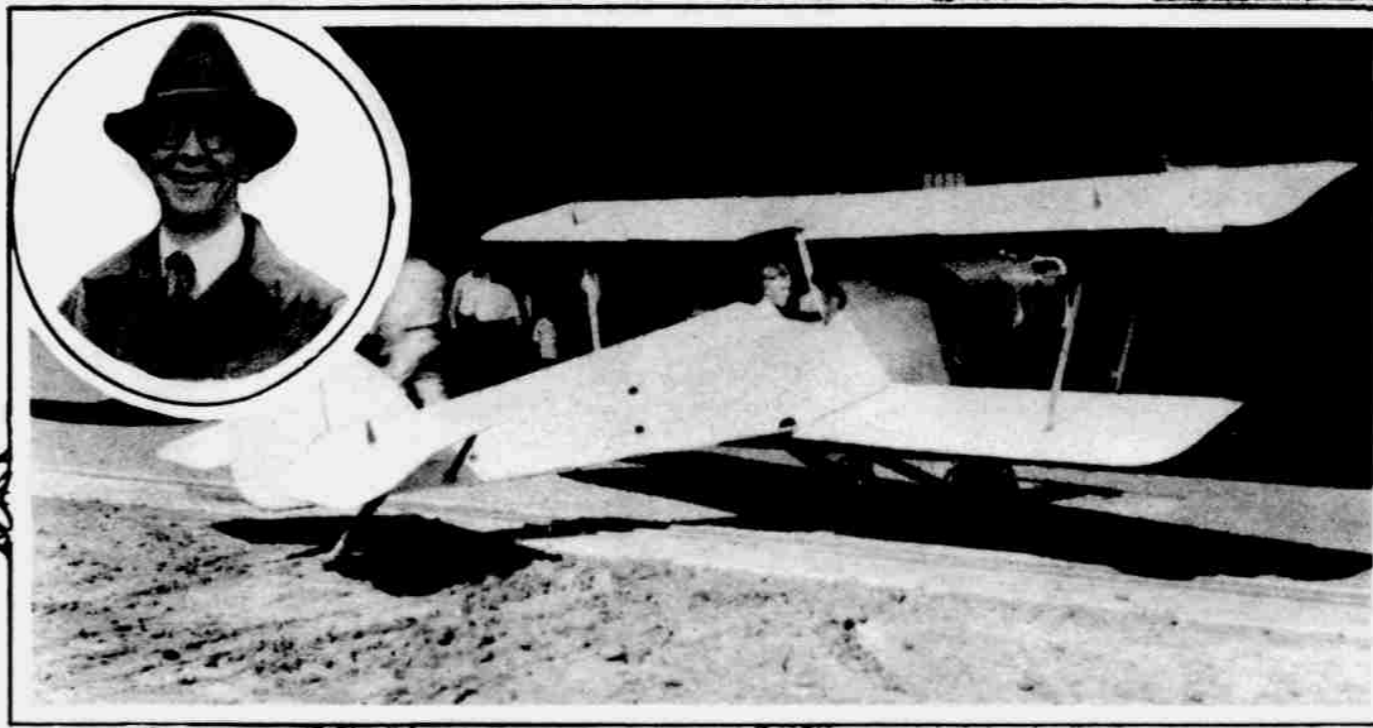
Harry Hiles of Gothenburg likes flying, both for pleasure and for business purposes. The airplane is destined, he believes, to replace all other forms of transportation for trips in which speed of delivery of passengers or freight is an important element. The above photo was taken just before he hopped off on a flight from North Platte to Gothenburg. He covered the distance, 38 miles, in 19 minutes. Hiles is now working on a new model of his own designing.



Rector Searle of Ogallala seated in his Curtiss plane with Mrs. Searle standing alongside the ship. On the ground is where she usually stays. Last spring she took pleasure in painting from tip to tip the plane shown in the picture, but she has no hesitancy in announcing to the world she is one aviator's wife who is "not keen on flying." Searle learned to fly through private instruction on his own landing field at Ogallala. His nearest approach to an accident during two years of flying was a forced landing recently in the Ogallala cemetery. His flying is chiefly for pleasure, but he has been impressed into service at times for business trips for friends. Searle has had four airplanes.



Lieutenant and Mrs. Robert Cochrane of Arapahoe take great pride in their Curtiss plane. Lieutenant Cochrane, an architectural draftsman, uses his ship for private business and pleasure flights. He has had no accidents during two years of flying. His most recent exploit was an emergency flight from Arapahoe to Omaha, bringing his cousin, 8-year-old Jean Richards, to a hospital here for an operation for acute appendicitis. The child's parents credit Cochrane with saving her life. Mrs. Cochrane accompanies her husband on flights and is said to have spent more hours in the air than any other Nebraska woman.



A. H. Fetters, Omaha man, is an engineer at Union Pacific headquarters. He spends his spare time designing airplane models and building experimental planes. He's now perfecting improvements on a light plane, which he believes can be manufactured in quantities at such a low cost and operated so economically that anyone with a few hundreds of dollars to spare can have his private airplane. A photograph of this prospective "Ford of the air" is shown above. Fetters has flown in it for short distances, but it has not yet proven entirely successful.