



SOIL TEAM PLACES SECOND NATIONALLY—Texas A&M's soil judging team won second in the recent National Soil Judging Contest in Michigan. Purdue University edged the Aggies and 10 other teams. Left to right, Coach J. F. Mills; Fred Minzenmayer, Winners; Michael Hoch, Garden City; Darrell Engel, Rosebud; Danny Barrett, Pampa; and Roger Blackwelder, Pilot Point. Minzenmayer was third high point individual, and Hoch was eighth high.

Senior aero majors propose new aircraft

Three aircraft to fill the "pick-up truck" category of air freight hauling have been proposed by aerospace engineering seniors.

The aircraft suggested by three teams of engineering students met a proposal request by Dr. Charles A. Rodenberger for a light commercial freight aircraft.

Feasibility studies, economic analysis, engineering design and calculation were carried out in Rodenberger's senior aerospace vehicle design course much as if the students were with a firm interested in building the aircraft.

Day-long oral presentations by the student teams were examined by visiting aerospace industry representatives.

"It would appear there is a market for an airplane designed specifically around a 2,500-pound payload capability for the purpose of hauling freight," Rodenberger suggested in his proposal request.

Only one airplane designed for hauling freight is now in production, the aerospace engineering professor indicated. It has a 20,000 pound capacity. The next smaller plane used for freight transport carries a 5,000-pound payload.

Design criteria within which the student groups could operate were specific and stringent. In addition to safely carrying 1 1/4 tons cargo, it was required to have a 500-mile operating range from a 1,000-foot landing strip using landing gear not to exceed 50 pounds tire pressure, in order that the craft use sod runways.

Equipment also was required that would enable the ship to operate in icing conditions. Design for pilot survival in case of crash also had to be considered.

Seven-man student teams headed by Dennis R. Deel and William R. Wheeler of Levelland and Abraham Moreno Jr. of Brownsville also had to make a needs analysis for the plane and establish projected production quantity and costs to the manufacturer. They were also required to make a cost analysis to a typical user of the aircraft.

The team headed by Deel chose a high-wing, twin-boom design of the C-46 configuration powered by two Garrett turboprop engines. With the "Skymule's" high wing and twin tail, access to the 382 cubic foot cargo area by pick-up trucks and vans is possible.

They figured per-plane cost at \$241,000.

Moreno's group employed about the same configuration for its "Ograc Tropanart," except that the cockpit and cargo area were slung in a pod under the 47-foot wing. Twin Avco Lycoming supercharged reciprocating engines were chosen for power.

In addition to loading and unloading ease due to the high wing and tail, minimized ground effects on the aerodynamics of the wing was pointed out as an advantage.

They designed the \$85,000 plane around a 15-foot-long cockpit-cargo compartment of seven feet diameter.

The Aero-Mini-Freighter (AMF-X) of Wheeler and his co-workers took the conventional design, low-wing route, with twin Lycoming propeller engines at a basic cost of \$120,000 per plane.

As in the other two designs, an integral unit pilot's compartment was placed over the cargo hold, so that an energy absorbing area was placed between the pilot and obstructions in case of crash.

The AMF's 298 cubic foot cargo space is front-loaded, with the entire nose section hinged to swing aside.

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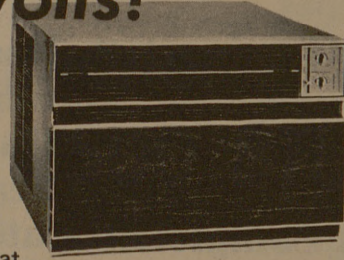
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