

Students make two passenger plane in their spare time

By LADONNA OLDHAM
Special To The Battalion

As an extracurricular part of their education, several Aerospace Engineering students at TAMU are in the process of constructing a Volksplane.

Donald J. Barbour, president of the TAMU Student Branch of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA), said that this project began in the spring of 1972.

"The Volksplane was designed by Evans Aircraft Company. It will run on a modified 1600cc Volkswagen engine and is expected to travel at 75 m.p.h.," Bar-

bour said. He noted that after larger cylinders and pistons were installed, the motor was increased to 1834cc.

"The engine has required very much work because it's got to be perfect. It's a little higher classed than working on a car engine," he said.

The two-place plane will not be very large. It will have only a 29-foot wingspan, and weigh approximately 1,000 pounds when two passengers are in it.

Barbour said most hobby planes are made of metal. "We are using the Evans plane because it is made of wood. It is easier to

work with and mistakes can be corrected easier," said Barbour. He added that wood is cheaper than metal.

"The Volksplane was funded by donations from the Houston AIAA, ex-Aggies, Bendix Aerospace Corporation and faculty contributions," said Barbour.

In all, AIAA received \$1,500, which will almost cover the total cost of the plane.

"We have missed two completion dates already but hope to have the plane completed by next summer," says the Denver senior.

The plane is worked on by stu-

dents. "The two who originally came up with the idea and started the project at TAMU are Jeff Brown and Steve Tester," Barbour said.

Brown, a graduate student since December, and Tester, who plans to graduate in May, are both in the Aerospace Dept. "They are still involved in working on the plane and have put in many hours since this project began," Barbour said.

"Timewise the plane is about half completed," added Barbour. He estimates approximately 400 man-hours have already been spent on the construction of the

plane.

"We work on the plane about two nights each week and sometimes on Saturdays. We would welcome help from any interested students.

"It's like a hobby though. We work on the plane when we can find some spare time," he said.

Barbour said about five people are usually working on the Volksplane; about a dozen have worked on it over the years.

"There is no doubt in the minds of those involved with the Volksplane that the project is extremely worthwhile."

"We have all learned a lot about

how airplanes work. We've learned things that you can't learn in a book," he added.

"Virtually every Aerospace professor has helped us in one way or another," said Barbour. "Also the men at the flight lab have been extremely helpful. It's been a real community effort," he said.

He added that even though only a few students have worked on the plane, he believes that it has had the support of almost everyone.

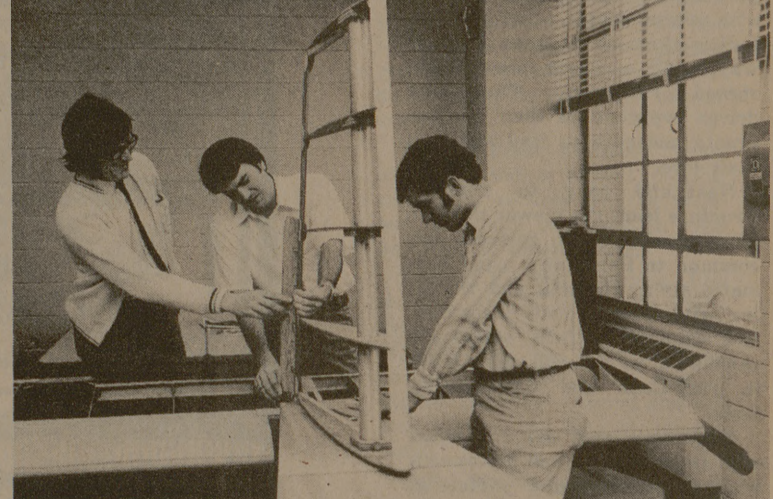
Two faculty advisors, Dr. Allan G. Parker and Mr. Howard L. Chevalier, were chosen at the begin-

ning of the project.

"Dr. Parker has helped us out a lot," Barbour said. He also said that Mr. Chevalier had helped with the woodwork since the beginning and that he would probably be the first one to fly it.

"That's probably why he has worked so closely with us," Barbour said.

The Volksplane belongs to AIAA and upon completion, it will probably be flown some but used mostly for experimental purposes. "We already have some ideas of ways to modify the plane after it is finished," Barbour said.



It might well be asked how these engineers intend to get the Volksplane out of the office when they finish building it. Dr. Allen Parker, who is assisting Donald Barbour and Bob Owsley, appears to have everything well planned. It has been his project since early 1972.

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Dean of the Graduate College

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Name: Hanna, John William
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Time: February 27, 1974 at 10:00 a. m.
Place: Room 127 of the Bolton Building
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Campus Briefs

Reviewing officer

Gen. George S. Brown, U. S. Air Force Chief of Staff, will be the spring commissioning speaker at Texas A&M University, announced President Jack K. Williams.

Gen. Brown will address newly-commissioned officers at the May 11 ceremony. New officers in the Air Force, Army and Marine Corps will receive the gold bars

Country concert

Country musician Roy Clark and The Sound Generation will perform in G. Rollie White Coliseum Friday, March 1, 1974 at 7:30 p.m.

General admission is free to TAMU students with activity card, date tickets \$2.50, and \$3

Drill team

The Fish Drill Team's season-opening effort at Laredo garnered a second-place trophy.

The Texas A&M University team competed in Laredo's George Washington Birthday Celebration meet. It also marched in a Saturday parade.

A&M placed second overall on the basis of a first place in basic phase and third in precision marching phase. Texas A&I claimed the top prize. UT-Arling-

Mail collection

Postal collection schedules have been revised to save fuel. Only the following boxes are collected. Mail should be deposited before 5 p.m. in the Main Office in Bryan and the outside boxes of the Downtown Station, the College Station Main Office, Aggeland Station and Redmond Terrace Station.

Taped opera

A 15-minute taped preview of "The Marriage of Figaro" is available in the Browsing Library of the MSC.

The tape was produced by Doug McDugald, who prepared the script and selected the arias, and Marty Kirkland, who provided the technical skills.

"Figaro" is scheduled for Feb. 27 in the Rudder Center Auditorium.

MSC theft

Three TAMU students were arrested concerning a burglary of the MSC.

According to University Police reports, on two occasions, January 28 and February 7, \$4,140

worth of equipment was stolen.

Bruce N. Huntley, James E. McWhorter and Glenn P. Michaelson were charged and released on \$2,500 bond each.