

EAA's Attic



A Mong Friends

Ralph E. Mong Jr. (EAA 90) completed his dream aircraft—the Mong Sport—in 1953, the same year EAA began. EAA touted the one-place, open-cockpit biplane in the October 1953 issue of *Experimenter* as an easy-to-build project for homebuilders with modest building experience or little spare time.

This zippy prototype, N5098N, boasted a cruise speed of 105 mph and a top speed of 115 mph with a 65-hp Continental. Its size, a mere 5 foot, 4 inches high by 13 feet, 8 inches long, fit Ralph's 5-foot, 2-1/2-inch body frame perfectly. Some novel features included lift-struts instead of flying and landing wires, adjustable trim control, and wing ribs constructed of silver

soldered steel welding rods.

Ralph sold about 400 sets of Sport plans, some modified for larger flyers and air racers, before selling the design to current owner Ed Fisher (EAA 64715). The prototype changed hands as well. By the time it reached fourth owner James Weiss (EAA 98114), the biplane was 5 inches longer, sported an 85-hp Continental, and wore N-number N1174. James graciously donated the plane to EAA in 1986 after learning it was the prototype. You can view it in one of EAA's attics—the FAA Building located on the Oshkosh campus—during EAA AirVenture.

—Kathleen L. Witman