

# EAA's Attic



## A Late Ballooner

In 1908, Warren Rasor (1859-1938) of Brookville, Ohio, traveled to Dayton, home of the Wright brothers, to learn about flying. The 49-year-old craftsman and lumberyard owner, however, was not interested in powered flight. His dream was to fly the old-fashioned way—in a balloon. Rasor fulfilled his dream that year and eventually became an accomplished coal-gas balloon homebuilder, racer, and instructor.

As a homebuilder Rasor developed a tight-sealing envelope varnish that became a standard among builders. He built seven balloons during his 15-year career and raced them with his son, Herbert, in several state and national events. The skilled pilot was especially adept at

flying long distances.

During World War I, he became a civilian instructor for the Army and shared his skills with military balloonists. Rasor, who held FAI spherical balloon certificate number 50, continued flying until his retirement in 1924 at age 65.

This Rasor 21 basket, woven in 1921, silently hovers between the Monnett Sonerai II and the UFM Easy Riser in EAA's Restoration Center.

Ironically, Rasor never flew in an airplane because he thought they were too dangerous!

—Kathleen L. Witman