

THE PILOT PERSONNEL OF NATIONAL AIR TRANSPORT, INC.



Photo illustration by Bonnie Kratz



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Unidentified Flying Persons

The pilots in these vintage photographs once delivered mail for National Air Transport (later United Airlines). EAA acquired the photos and the 1928 NAT Pilot Personnel poster from Ralph Gropitch, who worked as a dispatcher for the company from 1927 to 1966. The poster identifies most of the photographs in the collection, but the names of these pilots plus four others (see www.AirVentureMuseum.org/collection/attic_default.asp) are a mystery.

If you know the identity of any of those early aviators, e-mail editorial@EAA.org with "EAA's Attic" in the subject line, or write to EAA Editorial at P.O. Box 3086, Oshkosh, WI 54903. Please indicate the letter of the photograph in your response.

November's Mystery—the Conner (or Connor) engine—remains a mystery, but we received several leads. One came from Pete Silfven, EAA 336979, who said the cylinders are from a Harley-Davidson JD. He suggested we contact the Wheels Through Time Museum in North Carolina. Other leads came from folks around the Charles City, Iowa, area, including Roger Mulcahy, EAA 24651, of EAA Chapter 94. He and a friend discovered the name of Cleston Connor who was a machinist at the Hart-Parr Tractor Co., in Charles City around 1926-27. We're following up on the tips and will keep you posted.

—Kathleen L. Witman