

## When Pigs Whistle

Would you believe this beautiful prop was found in the trash? According to Robert Poyer, EAA 50707, he saw it on his way to a dentist appointment some 20 years ago. But that's not the whole story.

Poyer tracked down the owners, an elderly woman and her son, and eventually learned he picked up the prototype of the Curtiss-Reed one-piece duralumin propeller, dubbed the Whistling Pig. Made around 1920, the prop still has the stamped initials of the engineers who worked on it.

The son said his deceased father had acquired it while working for Curtiss-Wright. "They (the lab) were experimenting with propellers made of aluminum instead

of wood," the son told Poyer. "This was the first one that was successful! It was tested on a Liberty bomber engine." A lucky find indeed.

February 2008's "Unidentified Flying Persons" mystery in EAA's Attic garnered two positive IDs. Dan Davis, EAA 821810, wrote that pilot B is Clarence Melton—his deceased great uncle (see Davis' letter in Members Forum). Bob Melton, Clarence's son, also wrote in and sent a copy of the NAT Pilot Personnel poster (year unknown) featuring his dad. Doing so helped us discover the identity of pilot C, P.E. Reeder, also pictured on the poster.

—Kathleen L. Witman