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KEEPING UP WITH AVIATION

By ROBERT M. EWING, M.E. 2

Transcontinental Air Transport is testing on its lines a new refinement of the Keystone "Patrician," a twenty-passenger, tri-motored monoplane powered with three Wright "Cyclone" engines of 525 horsepower each. If this ship is found to be successful on the cross-country run more of them will be added to the present equipment consisting of Ford Tri-motors and Curtiss "Condors."

The Government has purchased and is about ready to start work on the ground, consisting of 2,400 acres, where will be located the "West Point of the Air." This field is situated sixteen miles from San Antonio, Texas, and will be called Randolph Field. It is the plan of the Government to establish here a four-year flying school where both army and navy fliers will be trained, thus unifying the two systems. Over \$11,000,000 will be spent in equipping this school and it will be the most complete and modern in the world.

A few days ago passengers on the westbound T. A. T. plane were entertained by moving pictures shown on a screen mounted directly back of the pilot's compartment. A news reel and two cartoon comedies were shown consuming a total of forty-five minutes. The apparatus used in this experiment weighed only thirty-four pounds and was installed by the operator in two minutes.

Western Air Express has finally solved the problem of transporting children over their lines by introducing a half-fare rate for children between the ages of two and twelve. Parents have felt all along that they should not have to pay full price for their children, while on the other hand they expected their children to occupy a regular seat which might have been sold to an adult passenger.

Despite all the talk about Europe exceeding the United States in quality and quantity of aerial service recent statistics show that more mail is carried by air in the United States than in all of Europe.

The Moth Aircraft Corporation of Lowell, Mass., is offering a coupe top to fit all DH Gipsy Moth planes. The top is easily put in place and as easily removed and is streamlined to conform to the lines of the ship.

Another plane has recently been put into production by the Curtiss Aeroplane and Motor Co. of Garden City, Long Island. It is an air mail and express plane known as the "Carrier Pigeon II" and is capable of carrying a load of 2,000 pounds at a speed of 151 miles per hour. The new plane is powered with a Curtiss "Conqueror" twelve cylinder, water-cooled engine of over 600 horsepower.

The Municipal Hangar at Port Columbus has been completed and is being used for storage of planes while the Curtiss-Wright Flying Service while repairs are being made on the heating system of their own hangar.