

tion. PFI is proceeding with the FAA type certification process for the airplane with an expected completion date in 1997."

Obituaries

+ 1994, XI

Witold Kasper, inventor of the Kasper Wing, has died in his native Krakow, Poland. An aeronautical engineer, Kasper made his way to Canada in 1950 and became an engineer for Boeing in Seattle in 1958 and worked there until retiring around 1970. A glider pilot of wide renown, he was the soaring champion of Poland in 1937, 1938, 1939 and 1948. In the 1950's he designed and built a couple of flying wing gliders configured to take advantage of vortex lift theories he had postulated, and frequently demonstrated the concepts in what Seattle area EAA members recall as truly amazing flight demonstrations. He could tumble the gliders and recover at will, and could "parachute" down almost vertically to near zero speed landings. This was possible, Kasper claimed, because of a spanwise tornado of vortex lift he could induce atop his wing at high angles of attack . . . and control by means of a containment and control system he had patented. While

no one could contest Kasper's performances in his gliders, his vortex lift theories remain controversial to this day and have proven to be difficult to demonstrate in wind tunnels. Articles on Kasper and his theories appeared in **Sport Aviation** July of 1973 (by Jack Cox) and January of 1976 (by Lu Sunderland). (Movies of Witold Kasper's controlled tumbles in his gliders are said to exist. EAA would like to transfer one or more to video tape for our historical archives. Anyone willing to allow us to borrow their film for this purpose is asked to call Jack Cox at 414/426-4800.)

Frederick C. Crawford of Thompson Products Company and the sponsor of the legendary Thompson Trophy events at the National Air Races of the 1930's and late 1940's has died at the age of 103. His collection of antique cars served as the basis of the Western Reserve Museum in Cleveland, which also includes air racers such as Roscoe Turner's Wedell-Williams No. 57 and Art Chester's Goon.

**KIS And KIS Cruiser
Construction Seminar**

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