



This 2-seater — the Derringer — powered with two 150 hp Lycomings, was announced by Wing Aircraft, California, last month. Cruising speed is 225 mph, gross wt. 2680lb., empty wt. 1700lb. Wing Aircraft surveys in USA showed 57% of all trips in 4/7-seaters are made with 1/2 people.

8 ft. 6 in., chord 5 ft. 7 in., wing area 141 sq. ft.; weight empty 750 lb., fuel capacity 41 imp. gal.; cruising speed 118-142 mph, sea level climb 700 ft./min., ceiling 16,500 ft., takeoff run 850 ft., landing run 395 ft., endurance, with 20 min. reserve, 8-9½ hr., i.e. over 1,000 statute miles.

#### **BANKSTOWN OPERATORS HAVE REAL PROBLEM**

THE fond hope of Bankstown operators that the prolonged closures of Bankstown Airport after wet weather were a thing of the past was shattered during Sydney's recent wet spell. The airport's serviceability record during the past month has been the worst ever and the flying schools have experienced very serious financial losses. It now appears that work on the new sealed runway is unlikely to start before August and that it will not be completed until the second half of next year. This means that Bankstown-based operators are faced with the prospect of at least a further 12 months of interruptions of this kind.

A leading Bankstown operator has stated that a further series of interruptions of similar duration to those which occurred last month would actually put some operators out of business. He said that either the grass surfaces are deteriorating still further or the Department's policy regarding closure is becoming more and more conservative because the airfield is being kept closed after even light rain for much longer periods than it ever was before.

Hoxton Park has proved useful, but operations there are limited by the fact that the grass taxiway is un-serviceable the greater part of the time, plus the fact that there are frequent occasions when limited operations

could be conducted from Hoxton Park but permission cannot be obtained to ferry aircraft across from Bankstown. The Bankstown Airport Chamber of Commerce regards the situation as very serious and are planning representations to get the present program speeded up.

#### **NEW DUSTING RECORDS?**

MR JIM HAZELTON, of Hazelton Air Services, claims an Australian record for a recent dusting operation which took place on Mr Ray Fitzpatrick's property at Wallerawang, NSW. Flying one of the 235 hp Piper Pawnee dusters recently added to his company's crop-dusting fleet, Jim Hazelton spread 200 tons of super-phosphate in two days. Eighty-seven tons were spread on the first day and 113 tons on the second day. This is believed to be an Australian record for an aeroplane of the Pawnee's capacity.

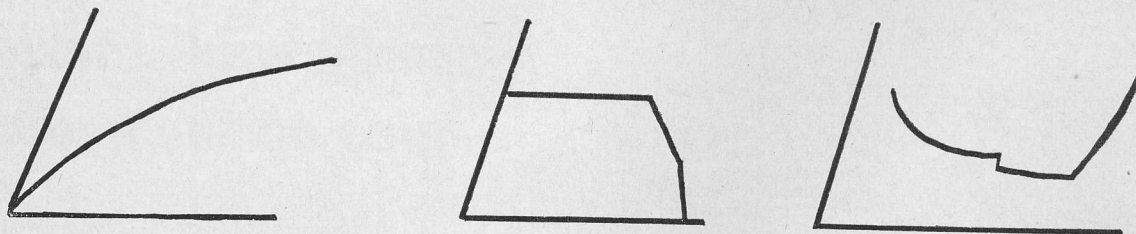
In addition to the Pawnees, Hazelton Air Services have now acquired a Piper Aztec B, VH-CMH, which was ferried to Australia by Max Conrad at the end of March. This aircraft, which is fully equipped for IFR operation, is based at Sydney Airport for charter work.

#### **NEW AIRCRAFT FOR TAA**

TWO general aviation category aircraft will begin operations for TAA this month. The first, a rebuilt 12-passenger Grumman Mallard amphibian, will be based at Mackay, Queensland, for flights serving Barrier Reef island resorts. The second, a 5-passenger Piper Aztec B, will be based at Rabaul, New Guinea.

The Mallard is the first of its type in Australia and will make at least four regular scheduled return flights a week direct to Brampton Island, and serve South Molle, Happy Bay and Palm Bay, through Shute Harbor. The Aztec, from its base at Rabaul, will serve Jacquinot Bay, Talasea, Hoskins, Kandrian, Finschhaafen and Lae.

END.



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