



### **M. T. "Cy" Bond**

Two airplanes, an American Eagle biplane with a cantankerous OX-5 engine, and a sleek, fast, modern Mooney 20-C, mark the beginning and the end of M. T. "Cy" Bond's career in aviation. In between stand a stint as a military pilot, hours flown as a flight instructor, and yards and yards of runways built by him.

Bond learned to fly in 1928 while he worked as an engineer for the highway department in Pine Bluff. There he also picked up a marriage license when he married Martha Culpepper. As an Army Service Pilot during World War II, he ferried bombers until he was assigned to the 2nd Air Transport Squadron and sent to fly "The Hump" in the China-Burma-India Theater.

After the war Bond returned to Arkansas and engineering. Dividing his time between building airports—he built them at Clarksville, Batesville, and Petit Jean—and giving flight instruction—until recently, he was the state's oldest practicing flight instructor—Bond still managed to organize the Jacksonville Squadron of the Civil Air Patrol. He and Martha have one son, Thomas, and they now live on Greers Ferry Lake.