



## DEVELOPMENT OF THE NELSON HUMMINGBIRD POWERED SAILPLANE

By **TED NELSON**

Powered gliders have long been the dream of practically every glider pilot who has been bitten by the soaring bug. This was even the favorite discussion of James Montgomery before 1900 when he was perfecting his early gliders.

Many powered gliders have been built in America as well as in foreign countries, however none of them were completely successful. In most cases a crude misfit motor was mounted on a tripod and attached to a not-too-clean glider with the result that the glider's performance was very poor under power and the gliding characteristics were considerably worse. The outcome of all this was that most of those who had played

with the idea gave it up as a bad job and had no more to do with it. (Ed. Note: Jay Buxton, whom all the old-timers in gliding will remember, once unburdened himself to this editor in a four-hour monologue on the follies of trying to combine gliders and power. He had been trying it for years with motorcycle engines.)

The writer however persisted with the idea and in 1945 started on a new idea and made a ship known as the "Bumble Bee." This later was perfected into what was known as the "Dragonfly," and became the first type C. A. A. certificated powered glider in America.

(For complete stories and pictures on these two models see **SOARING** May-June, 1949).

