

AMELIA HOPS IN NEW SHIP

First Test Given \$70,000 Plane

Flying Laboratory to Permit
Human Reaction Study,
Says Miss Earhart

In her \$70,000 Lockheed Electra flying laboratory which she has equipped for a possible nonstop flight of 4500 miles, Amelia Earhart yesterday went aloft for the first time at Union Air Terminal, Burbank.

She flew as co-pilot to the Lockheed test flyer, Elmer C. McLeod, in the first official flight of the bi-motored transport which she will operate under the aegis of Purdue University at Lafayette, Ind.

HUMAN REACTION

The human reaction to flying will be Miss Earhart's first object of experimentation, she said. Engineers, pilots and psychologists will collaborate on a series of tests, she said, to be made high over either Southern California or Indiana.

"We've improved the mechanical features of aviation marvelously," Miss Earhart explained. "But the observation of the human factor in flight has been neglected.

SIMPLIFYING OF DIALS

"I propose to study the reaction to the vast array of flying instruments, having in mind possible changes to improve the ease of piloting by these dials. And perhaps I shall find that flying at 10,000 feet continuously, for example, demands a totally different diet from that served to a sea-level worker.

"During the next few weeks I'll just be testing the operation of this plane itself over Los Angeles. Then I'll fly to Purdue for instructions and a few more tests."

HER FIRST BIMOTOR

The Electra, she explained, is her first bi-motored ship in more than eight years of flying. Hitherto her transoceanic and land records have been made in her little red monoplane, the Lockheed Vega.

The Electra has extra fuel tanks holding 1200 gallons of gasoline. Powered with twin nine-cylinder, 550-horsepower Pratt & Whitney Wasp motors and equipped with retractable landing gear, it will be able to fly 215 miles per hour at 10,500 feet altitude.

SPECIAL EQUIPMENT

Special equipment includes blind flying instruments, a Sperry auto-gyro robot pilot, a fuel minimizer, wind de-icers, radio homing and two-way sending devices.

Miss Earhart holds the position of consultant in aviation at Purdue, she explained, which she fulfills in a capacity with her other job as consultant in careers for girls. The new Earhart Foundation at Purdue financed the flying laboratory.

Meanwhile, with an eye on the September Bendix transcontinental races, the aviatrix said she may enter the Electra in an attempt to defeat the array of male pilots competing in the cross-country dash.

Flying Laboratory Put Through Its Initial Experiment by Famed Aviatrix



Amelia Earhart, diminutive tousle-haired aviatrix, rated as America's No. 1 woman flyer, is shown here beside her new Lockheed Electra flying laboratory in which she made a test flight yesterday. The huge ship has a nonstop fly-

ing radius of 4500 miles and its two motors will carry it to an altitude of 27,500 feet. Her observations, which will be of human factor and pilot reactions to altitudes, will be made under the direction of Purdue University.

Wide World photo