

NORTH DAKOTA AVIATION HALL OF FAME

Alfred C. Pietsch

Inducted: 1997



Alfred Pietsch grew up on a farm south of Minot, ND. He demonstrated an early interest in learning about aviation from books and model planes. His flight instruction was interrupted by US Infantry service in the Phillipines during WWII. Al returned to Minot after the war and resumed flight instruction, did construction work, ran Al's Hobby Shop and flew model planes competitively.

In 1948, Al and his brothers rebuilt a wrecked Champ and he began crop spraying. In the early 50's, Pietsch Spraying became Pietsch Flying, a full served Fixed Base Operation. Al also worked in a US Department of Agriculture program assisting the Libyan government in establishing a crop spraying and airport facility and pilot training program.

One of Al's early instructor's, Bob Priewe, sparked his interest in aerial acrobatics. Al and a group from Minot began building an aerobatic plane, a "Starduster Too", in 1967.

Al first flew the Starduster in 1968 in the first of many air shows from the Yukon to Bermuda. Other homebuilts followed but the "Starduster Too" remained the only show plane he performed and competed in. For many years, he flew both solo and dual acts with his 3 sons. He was especially proud of his honorary membership in the "Snowbirds" of the Royal Canadian Air Force. Al was an Aerobatic Competency Evaluator with the International Council of Air Shows and for 30 years was a Designated FAA Examiner.

Al's entire adult life was spent promoting aviation in North Dakota, serving the industry in many capacities. He was chairman and a long time appointee to the Aeronautics Commission, director of the North Dakota Aviation association, a charter member of the Experimental Aircraft Association, Captain of the local Civil Air Patrol, instrumental in organizing the Dakota Territory Air Museum and chaired or served on committees for numerous local air shows.