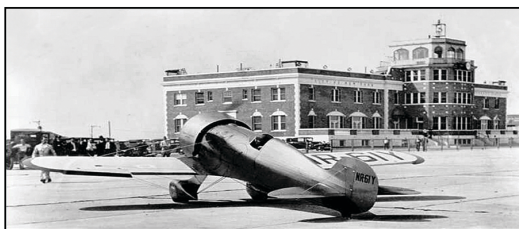


GHOST AIRPORT

Throughout the '30s, Floyd Bennett Field in Brooklyn, New York was mecca for names like Roscoe Turner, Amelia Earhart, Jimmy Doolittle, Wiley Post, Jackie Cochran, and even "Wrong Way" Corrigan. Many aviation records were set or broken there.



When WWII began, the Navy turned it into a major airbase for operations like marshaling fighter and bomber squadrons and sending them out to their carriers. A young Ohio recruit was assigned to the control tower where he herded Wildcats, Hellcats, Corsairs, Avengers and SBDs onto, around, and out from the field. He stayed there for 20 years, retiring as Tower Chief with the rank of Master Chief Petty Officer, and he had a three-digit EAA number.

With his teenage son he set about restoring an old Taylorcraft BC-12D in their garage, but about six years into the project he was diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease and couldn't work on it anymore. A few years later, the old Chief died of complications and a broken heart.

With re-fired dedication, his son finished the little Taylorcraft, and on both doors just below the windows he lovingly stenciled *Master Chief Petty Officer LeRoy Russell, Pilot in Command*.



Floyd Bennett Field is abandoned now, but pilots still report hearing a voice from the tower guiding them home.

POLY
FIBER
Aircraft Coatings