



THE GREAT DEPRESSION WAS TOUGH ON THE AIRCRAFT INDUSTRY, ESPECIALLY THE SALE OF LUXURIES LIKE THE SMALL SPORT PLANES THE GRANVILLE BROTHERS BUILT IN SPRINGFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS. THE DECISION WAS MADE TO BUILD AND ENTER A RACER IN THE CLEVELAND AIR RACES IN HOPES THAT PRIZE MONEY COULD HELP SUPPORT THEIR DWINDLING SALES. THE FIRST RACER, ENGINEERED BY BOB HALL, AND BUILT BY THE GRANVILLE BROTHERS (HENCE GEE BEE) BEGAN IN JULY OF 1931. IN LESS THAN 6 WEEKS "THE CITY OF SPRINGFIELD" MADE ITS FIRST FLIGHT AT A COST OF LESS THAN \$5,000. THE GEE BEE WOULD BE FLOWN BY EXPERT PILOT, LOWELL BAYLES, AND WON EVERY RACE IT ENTERED, INCLUDING THE SHELL SPEED DASH AT 267.34 MPH AND THE FAMOUS THOMPSON TROPHY PYLON RACE! THEY MORE THAN RECOUPED THEIR ORIGINAL INVESTMENT.

THE SUCCESS OF THE "Z" MODEL WAS SHORT LIVED HOWEVER. BAYLES HAD A LARGER 750 HP ENGINE INSTALLED AND WAS GOING TO MAKE AN ATTEMPT AT THE WORLD LAND SPEED RECORD. ON DECEMBER 5, 1931 AT THE WAYNE COUNTY AIRPORT IN DETROIT, MICHIGAN, ONLY 106 DAYS AFTER ITS FIRST FLIGHT, BAYLES CAME SPEEDING IN TO THE TIMING GATE WHEN, WITHIN A MATTER OF SECONDS, THE RIGHT WING CAME OFF AND THE TUMBLING GEE BEE HIT THE GROUND, ERUPTING INTO A BALL OF FLAMES! BAYLES WAS KILLED AND THE REPUTATION OF THE GEE BEE AS A KILLER AIRPLANE BEGAN.

<http://www.fantasyofflight.com/aircraftpages/geebie.htm>





TAKE OFF

IT IS IMPORTANT TO PUSH THE STICK WELL FORWARD AT AROUND 55KTS, APPROXIMATELY TO PUT THE FORWARD COCKPIT WINDOW BOTTOM IN LINE WITH THE HORIZON TO GET THE ANGLE OF ATTACK BELOW 9° . OTHERWISE THE AILERONS ARE STALLED.

NO TRIM NEEDED FROM TAKE OFF

LANDING

THIS IS A VERY DIFFICULT AIRCRAFT TO LAND BECAUSE IT IS ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE TO SEE THE RUNWAY.

BECAUSE IT IS A VERY CLEAN AIRCRAFT YOU CAN'T DO A STRAIGHT IN, IDLE APPROACH DUE TO FLAT ATTITUDE.

THE SIDESLIP APPROACH IS RECOMMENDED. CROSS-CONTROLLED DOWN TO 10-20 FEET AT APPROXIMATE 90 - 95 KTS.

YOU CAN TOUCHDOWN AT ANY SPEED BUT YOU CAN'T START BRAKING UNTIL THE TAIL STARTS TO SETTLE AT APPROXIMATE 65 - 70 KTS. IF YOU TOUCH DOWN AT 95 KTS. IT TAKES A LONG TIME TO SLOW DOWN TO 65 KTS.

DO NOT GET SLOWER THAN 75 - 80 KTS. DURING THE FLARE BECAUSE THE CRITICAL ANGLE OF ATTACK (AOA) IS VERY LOW AND YOU MIGHT START EXPERIENCING AILERON REVERSAL DURING THE FLARE IF YOU ARE TOO SLOW. THE AILERONS BECOME TOTALLY USELESS ABOVE 10° OF AOA.

NO TRIM NEEDED FROM LANDING.

GOOD LUCK!





ALABEO

GEE BEE MODEL Z DATA SHEET	
Engine	Pratt & Whitney R-985 450 HP
Propeller	2-bladed Hamilton standard Constant speed
FUEL CAPACITY	104 gallons grade aviation gasoline
WEIGHT	Basic Empty Weight 1400 lb Gross Weight 2280 lb
NUMBER OF SEATS	One
PERFORMANCE	Maximum speed 235 kts. Cruise speed 200 kts