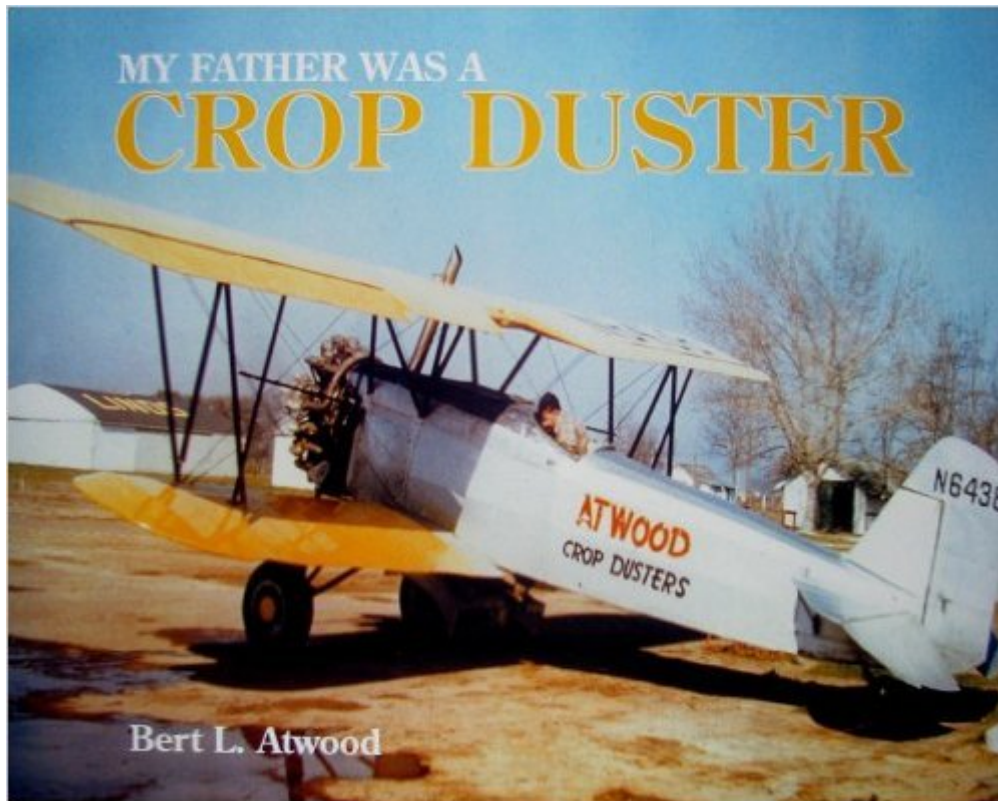


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My Father Was A Crop Duster: The Story Of Atwood Crop Dusters



Book Information

Hardcover: 182 pages

Publisher: Aaaa Pub; 1 edition (April 8, 2008)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0979928729

ISBN-13: 978-0979928727

Product Dimensions: 0.5 x 11.8 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 2.2 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars Â Â See all reviews Â (3 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

My Father Was A Crop DusterBert Atwood, son of Bud and Leila Atwood, has provided us with a very interesting memoir of the "crop dusting" industry and its development in California from the early 30's through the late 70's in his new book "My Father Was A Crop Duster." He gives an insightful prospective of the industry by relating the history of his family and the Atwood Crop Dusters company, which was located in Salinas, California. Atwood highlights the evolution of technologies and advances in equipment in the industry, often lead by the trial-and-error of pilots and mechanics seeking a better and safer way to serve their farmer-clients. He relates his dad's early years as a crop duster and his parents' building and operation of Atwood Crop Dusters. He also follows the evolution of the industry and outlines the development of formal training and safety programs for pilots and ground crew under his parents' leadership. Atwood accomplishes all this by incorporating his memories and those of many who had known and worked for the Atwood family business. It's an interesting story told from a different perspective. With over 200 photos and over 70 cameos of company associates, this is very special slice of aerial application history. It will be of particular interest to anyone active in California's ag pilot community during the last century and especially to anyone interested in Stearman aircraft and their use after the war. It's a very interesting addition to the material available outlining the history of this very unique industry. The book is 11" x 8 1/2" with 192 pages, full color and 200 photos.

I purchased this company (1967) from Mrs. Atwood several years after Bud Atwood was killed in a plane crash. Atwood Aviation, Inc. then became the largest aerial spraying business in the Western United States employing twenty pilots working from South San Diego north to California's Half Moon Bay. We developed safety equipment for mixing and loading toxic pesticide materials and shared this equipment with others in the farm chemical application business. Our main asset, a large inventory of Stearman Biplanes became outdated in the late 1970s and I sold off the assets of the Company and closed down the corporation. Forty of our Stearmans went to airrepairinc. (web site) in Cleavland, Miss. and now enjoy a new life for sport flying. . .

Crop dusters - a strange profession that developed soon after the invention of the biplane in the early twentieth century. "My Father Was a Crop Duster" is a complete and comprehensive look at these people, explaining how it came into being, who does it, humorous and near death anecdotes, and a look at the fatalities as well - among other elements. "My Father Was a Crop Duster" is enhanced with over two hundred photos, both in black & white and color- making it a must have for anyone who has interest in the topic and for community library Aviation collections.

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