



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Tuskegee Airmen  
National Historic Site

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## Piper J-Cub



Length: 22'2"  
Height 6'8"  
Wingspan: 35'2"

Max speed: 85 mph  
Cruising speed: 75 mph  
Range: 190 miles

The J-3 Cub had exposed cylinder heads, V-brace, and a distinct flat spot on the tail. Over 5000 were built before World War II for observation-liaison and known as L-4. The cub was a tandem-seat, two-man trainer that introduced nearly 75 percent of World War II aviators to flying, primarily through the Civilian Pilot Training Program.

In the late 1920's brothers C. Gilbert Taylor and Gordon Taylor of Taylor Brothers Aircraft Company of Rochester, NY designed a two-seat monoplane called the Chummy. Shortly afterward, Gordon was killed in a plane crash.

Gilbert moved to Bradford, Pennsylvania where he received financial support from the Bradford Board of Commerce to build additional Chummys before the Great Depression halted production.

One of the stockholders, oilman William T. Piper felt that the Chummy was too expensive and offered to sponsor the development of a smaller airplane to sell for ½ of the Chummy's price.

The Taylor Company declared bankruptcy in 1931 and Piper bought the assets keeping Gilbert Taylor as chief engineer. In 1937 Piper moved his manufacturing company to Lock Haven, Pennsylvania and, a year later, introduced the J-3 Cub, powered by 40-hp Continental, Lycoming or Franklin engines. Horsepower reached 65 mph by 1940. Just as Henry Ford's Model T's were all black, Piper standardized a color scheme to all bright yellow with black trim. Piper became known as the Henry Ford of the aviation industry.

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