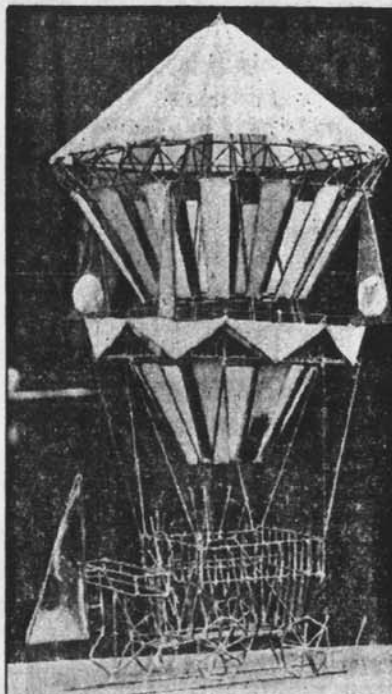
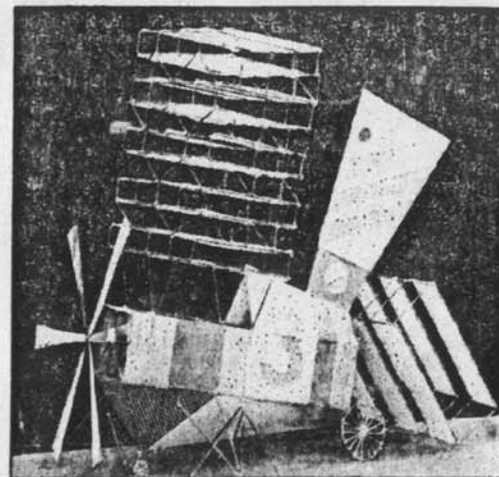


Artist Stan Bitters with one of his art-form 'aircraft.'

Fresno artist gives wing to his talent



Fantasy flier: Obviously it goes up.



No hangar queen this whimsical flight form.

Fresno-area artist Stan Bitters has a bent for the unusual. After nearly 20 years of fountains, facades, convention center doors, lollipops and other works of art, Bitters has turned his creative talents aloft — to some "whimsical flight forms." He is fabricating four large "aircraft" near the Fresno Air Terminal that will be the centerpiece of Ernest W. Hahn Inc.'s new shopping mall in Fairfield. Constructed of hollow steel tubing and covered with brightly colored fabrics, the aircraft will measure about 20 by 30 feet and will be suspended 14 feet above ground. No, they won't fly, says the artist, nor will they help during the approaching holiday, when the travel crunch is on. Bitters said Hahn, a pilot, was attracted by models of the aircraft and then commissioned the local artist. The works will be installed about March 1.

Fresno Bee/Thom Halls