

5-177801

59-86.

BIRD MAN MAY FLY SOON.

They call it the Orithopter. It has no engine and if it ever flies it will be powered by the designer's arm and leg muscles. Euiel Hartman wasn't there to make the experiment when we filmed the ornithopter (by courtesy of the Daily Mail) because conditions were unfavourable. The wings flap when the pedals and hand-grips are operated, and as some important scientists and engineers have helped the designer in his attempt on man-powered flight, it's evident the ornithopter isn't something crazy, thought up by an eccentric.

Thirty years ago Pathe shot this film of an earlier birdman. He, too, was ambitious to fly by his own power. His contraption was not backed by science or engineering, but he did reach a ground velocity of 15 miles an hour, so he probably had something. However, he didn't make aeronautical history this time.

A brave attempt, but suppose he had gone sailing over the houses. He wouldn't half have been surprised. So would we...