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## **Harold E. Morehouse Flying Pioneers Biographies Collection - Atwood, Harry N.**

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problems of bonding plywood and other veneered materials. This led him to patent a resilient type of automobile wheel made of bonded wood and rubber construction. In 1923 he formed a company in Monson, Massachusetts, known as Rubwood Wheel, Inc. to manufacture these wheels. A factory was built and Atwood reportedly remained there until about 1928, and during that time talked some of building an airplane. Following this Atwood moved to Milford, New Hampshire, took over a former furniture factory and started to make fabricated and bonded furniture, but this venture ended with 1929 financial crash. After this was over he did make an all-metal molded and bonded plywood airplane at Nashua, New Hampshire, which was successfully flown in 1935. In 1936 Atwood was with the French & Heald Company of Milford, New Hampshire.

Atwood continued his plastic research, and during World War II was with the Higgins Company in New Orleans, Louisiana on the Government plywood PT boat program. From 1948 to 1958 he lived in Berryville and Green Forest, Arkansas, then in 1959 moved to Murphy, North Carolina where he and his wife continued with plastic research, and build a very unusual all-plastic residence around a swimming pool. After many years of these research developments Atwood passed away on July 14th, 1967, at age 83. He was survived by his wife, two daughters and five grandchildren. Burial was in nearby Hanging Dog Cemetery. He was a member of the Early Birds.

Flying Pioneer, Early Bird Harry N. Atwood was truly one of the outstanding early aviators. He was probably the first pioneer pilot to attempt extended cross-country flying trips, and started these exploits in 1911 after very little flying experience and with absolutely no facilities along the routes, which made it truly a hazardous gamble. In 1911-1912 his flying feats were legend. Later he became a nationally recognized authority in plastic research accomplishments and held many patents in his field. His name will long be remembered in the annals of American aviation history.

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