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Harold E. Morehouse Flying Pioneers Biographies Collection - Babcock, Verne C.

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stands for the government.

After the war, Babcock's health became a major concern and all thoughts of re-entering the private aircraft business had to be abandoned. For a time he again worked in electronic developments, but in 1946 his interest shifted to boats. As a result he built a powered catamaran which developed into the original cabin-type Kattu and Polynesian Clipper boats. He also designed and built the first successful forward, neutral, and reverse gear unit for outboard motors.

Following retirement, Babcock operated a small fishing rod and reel repair shop in the rear of his home in DeLand, Florida. He enjoyed fishing and occasionally taking on a small design and development project that might interest him. After the death of Mrs. Babcock in early 1970 he lived alone, lonely and in gradually failing health. He died February 13th, 1972 at age 82. He was survived by two daughters. Mr. Babcock was a member of the famed Early Birds organization.

Flying Pioneer, Early Bird Vearne C. Babcock deserves exceptional recognition for his many worthy contributions to American aviation history. Starting with balloons he was one of the first to assist in the early development of the airplane. Endowed with unusual mechanical and engineering ability, he built planes and taught himself to fly them at an early age, and devoted his entire lifetime of hard work and sacrifice to the design, construction and testing of many successful aircraft. Many times he was deprived of ultimate business success, just when his dreams seemed within reach, but his love of flying and the determination to continue always inspired him to carry on. His long lifetime of worthy contributions to the industry were his rich reward.

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