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Harold E. Morehouse Flying Pioneers Biographies Collection - Baldwin, Ivy (William Ivy)

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On October 11, 1909, Ivy and J. C. Irvine made an ascension in the balloon "Queen of the Pacific," at the Oakland, California, Aero Club Balloon Races.

On April 2, 1910, Ivy and R. W. Martland flew the "Queen of the Pacific" from Oakland to Tracy, California. That summer Ivy's interest turned to flying and during October he purchased a Curtiss-type pusher biplane powered by a 4-cylinder Hall-Scott engine. He began trying to learn to fly it at the Parade Grounds of the Presidio at San Francisco and after many trials and tribulations with numerous smash-ups, he succeeded in making some short flights. He had the urge to fly around Alcatraz Island and through the Golden Gate, but crashed on takeoff.

In January, 1911, he made some short flights with his machine at the Hope Ranch near Santa Barbara, California, then undertook some exhibition flying. In May his plane was badly wrecked when his mechanic tried to fly the plane without permission and it was necessary to send it to the California Aero Manufacturing Company in San Francisco to be rebuilt.

In January, 1912, Ivy organized Baldwin & Company and built a new Curtiss-type plane, powered by an 80 h.p. Frederickson engine, at Elmhurst, California. In April, he flew this plane at Sunset Field, Alameda, California, where he soon installed a 4-cylinder opposed-type engine built by Frederickson.

In 1913 he returned to Denver where he contracted to fly a twin-float hydro-aeroplane from Sloan's Lake at the Manhattan Beach resort. There he flew well and carried passengers that season. Evidently he gave up flying at the end of that season but never lost interest in show business and aeronautics. Reportedly he retired to a ranch 60 miles northwest of Denver, near Eldorado Springs, Colorado, and there, in 1928, announced the opening of his aviation tourist camp. He had made an airstrip and invited flying guests.

Just to prove that he could still do it, he made two more trips across South Boulder Creek Canyon on a tightwire, on his 82nd birthday.

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