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Harold E. Morehouse Flying Pioneers Biographies Collection - Barnhart, George E.

Extracted on Mar-29-2024 05:26:22

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Beach on November 12th. At that time he was a member of the Los Angeles Aircraft Examination Board. Following this Barnhart formed and became President and Chief Engineer of the Barnhart Aircraft, Incorporated of Pasadena, California for aircraft research and development. There for many years he developed and patented numerous valuable basic aerodynamic devices in common use on modern aircraft today, including trailing edge wing flaps, special wheel brakes and wing tanks. He also was inventive in other lines, developing the first steel shaft golf clubs, and in 1949 a process and the machinery for making hydraulic cylinders and tapered tubes by cold forming. Reportedly he later held over 70 patents, most of which referred to aircraft developments, and during World War II he gave free use of his patents to the Government for the duration of the war, with the understanding that when hostilities ended all were to be returned to him. His generosity caused trouble for him later when he found his patented developments were so ensnared in War Department legal technicalities that it was necessary to go through Congressional and Presidential channels to get action.

Always a go-getter, and still active, Barnhart passed away in Memorial Hospital, Pasadena, California on April 25th, 1962, following a brief illness, at age 66. He was survived by two daughters. At the time of his death he was living in Altadena, California. He was a member of the Early Birds, I. A. S., A. S. M. E., S. A. E., A. S. T. M., The Aero Club of Southern California, The Royal Aeronautical Society of Great Britain and the Masonic Order.

Flying Pioneer, Early Bird George E. Barnhart devoted his entire active life to aviation and related creative activities. From the start he never made a poor plane, they were always exceptionally well built, beautifully finished and delightful to fly. A man of broad vision, his rare natural mechanical talents never received the recognition they so rightfully deserved. Few men indeed created more in their lifetime toward the development of American progress during the early era. Every modern aircraft today has some feature or device of his creation.

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