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Harold E. Morehouse Flying Pioneers Biographies Collection - Beachey, Lincoln

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the city and dropped a message to Rear Admiral Marix aboard the Idaho anchored in the Delaware River. He also made night flights with searchlights on his airship.

In September, 1909, Beachey and Knabenshue raced their dirigibles at Nashville, Tennessee, during the State Fair. In October he was at the St. Louis, Missouri, Centennial with Baldwin and Knabenshue and there, on October 7th, Curtiss made a short flight in his biplane. November 12th to 14th Beachey was at the Latonia Race Track, Cincinnati, Ohio, with Knabenshue; Curtiss and Willard also flew their airplanes there.

Beachey was a contestant at the first air meet at Dominguez Field, Los Angeles, California, January 10th to 20th, 1910. He and Knabenshue flew their dirigible, and Curtiss, Willard, Hamilton and Paulhan were all flying airplanes. Beachey won a dirigible race against Knabenshue on January 14th. By this time he was intensely interested in the airplane as it was rapidly stealing the show from balloons. There is evidence that Beachey and Knabenshue built a monoplane at Los Angeles during the early months of 1910 using a 4 cylinder Curtiss engine. That spring Knabenshue became Exhibition Manager for the Wrights and promoted their first public flying meet at Indianapolis, Indiana, on June 12th to 18th. Although this event was predomina tely a Wright Brothers Meet, Knabenshue arranged for Beachey to be there with their monoplane but it did not fly.

June 22nd to 25th Beachey was at an air meet at Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minnesota, with his dirigible and the monoplane. Also flying at this event were Curtiss, Willard, Mars, and Ely. Beachey had his dirigible out every day and was also trying to fly his plane, but he finally wrecked it when he ran into a fence. It was here that Beachey decided to give up dirigibles in favor of airplanes. From June 29th to July 1st he was at Sioux City, Iowa, as Willard's mechanic, then he went to Kansas City July 3rd and 4th, again as a mechanic and assistant. On July 11th, while Beachey was at Atlantic City, New Jersey, with Curtiss, Curtiss gave him a ride. Beachey was eager to learn to fly, and because of

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