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Harold E. Morehouse Flying Pioneers Biographies Collection - Bocquel, Joe

Extracted on Apr-18-2024 07:07:36

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did considerable night flying during that period.

In early September he put on his aerial show for one week at the California State Fair at Sacramento. From there he performed at Seal Beach, California for one week and thrilled huge throngs of people. His entertaining engagements were beginning to get much publicity and he had a plan of changing his show from day to day to hold public interest.

That Fall Bocquel was flying exhibitions under the management of William Baster who also managed Art Smith. Smith was flying at the San Diego Fair at the Exposition grounds when Baster sent him to a mid-west engagement, so Bocquel was sent to San Diego to fulfill the contract. Using the Curtiss OX-powered Art Smith biplane, Bocquel was killed there on November 4th, 1916 at age 32. He was survived by his wife and daughter. That was to have been his last day there and he was to receive an accolade from the Fair officials for his excellent work. He was making what he called his "corkscrew twist" when he lost control and crashed within the Exposition grounds.

Flying pioneer Joe Bocquel quickly developed into a very daring and promising exhibition star. Well liked and highly regarded by all who knew him, it was a pity that he lost his life so soon after learning to fly. He desperately wanted to become "one of the very best" and many of those in the flying game thought he was rapidly becoming one of the top stunt pilots in the country.

[[stamped]] FROM THE FLYING PIONEERS BIOGRAPHIES OF
HAROLD E. MOREHOUSE [[/stamped]]

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