



**Smithsonian Institution**

*Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum Archives*

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

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and trailing type ailerons on the upper wing only. It was a headless type with an outrigger tail and a tricycle landing gear. Bocquel began flying this new plane after it was completed and practicing upside down maneuvers.

That spring the Panama Pacific Exposition opened in San Francisco, and Lincoln Beachey, Charles Niles and Art Smith flew exhibitions there. Between the engagements of these pilots, Bocquel was given the opportunity to fill in, making his first public exhibition flights. During this period he became friendly with Art Smith who kept his planes at the Christofferson field. From September 6 to 9, 1915, Bocquel flew at Redding, California using the Christofferson Looper. Toward the end of his engagement he began to have engine trouble which finally resulted in a bad landing, breaking some parts, when he was forced down with three dead cylinders. About that time Art Smith left on an exhibition tour of Japan and Bocquel leased one of the planes Smith had used at the Exposition. In November, he received headline notices when he made eighteen loops while flying from the Exhibition grounds in San Francisco to Oakland.

On July 24, 1916, he made twenty loops in succession in San Francisco, then on August 6th, Bocquel made thirty successive loops at Tanforan Park, San Francisco--a new record. He delighted in developing new flying ideas that would command publicity. He once landed on Van Ness Avenue in San Francisco in an open spot near the Civic Center and was arrested. He also 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 lots of publicity and he had a plan for changing his show from day to day to hold public interest.

That fall, Bocquel was flying exhibitions under the management of William Bastar, who also managed Art Smith. Smith was flying at the San Diego Fair at

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