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Harold E. Morehouse Flying Pioneers Biographies Collection - Carlstrom, Victor

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On May 29th Carlstrom flew the JN-5 from Newport News to Sheepshead Bay, Long Island, New York, nonstop, in four hours, carrying Capt. R. L. Taylor. There Carlstrom demonstrated the plane in the Sheepshead Bay Military air tournament. On June 1st he flew it from New York to the Polo Grounds, Washington, D.C., carrying Alan R. Hawley, President of the Aero Club of America. On June 30th, with the JN-5 on floats, he flew around and alighted near the Presidential yacht "Mayflower," at anchor off Old Point Comfort, Virginia, with President Wilson on board.

Shortly after that, Carlstrom piloted a Curtiss "R" plane to 14,000 feet altitude at Buffalo, New York, and on August 21st flew a twin-float JN-5 661 miles on a circular course between Newport News and Cape Charles, Virginia, while competing for the 1916 Curtiss Marine Trophy, carrying a mechanic, Percy Kirkham. Considerable test work on the new model Curtiss planes was done that year, both at Newport News and Buffalo, and Carlstrom accomplished much of that work. On October 1st he conducted initial tests of a new Curtiss Triplane at Buffalo and kept it up at 10,000 feet for over an hour.

At that time Carlstrom was planning a spectacular nonstop flight from Chicago to New York carrying mail. This flight was sponsored by the New York Times and was to be a "sunrise to sunset" trip. Leaving Ashburn Field, Chicago, early on November 2nd in an expanded-wing Curtiss "R" plane, he carried over one thousand letters from prominent Chicagoans addressed to New Yorkers. He was forced to land at Erie, Pennsylvania, with a leaking gas tank, fixed it temporarily, then flew on to Hammondsport, New York, where the trouble was permanently corrected at the Curtiss factory. These delays forced him to remain there over night. The following day he flew on to Governors Island, New York, to complete the flight, carrying the first mail ever flown by air from Chicago to New York. Although he failed to make the trip nonstop his first leg of the flight from Chicago to Erie did set up a new American nonstop distance record of 452 miles.

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