



## Smithsonian Institution

*Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum Archives*

### Harold E. Morehouse Flying Pioneers Biographies Collection - Cato, Joseph L.

Extracted on Mar-28-2024 12:50:18

**The Smithsonian Institution thanks all digital volunteers that transcribed and reviewed this material. Your work enriches Smithsonian collections, making them available to anyone with an interest in using them.**

The Smithsonian Institution (the "Smithsonian") provides the content on this website ([transcription.si.edu](https://transcription.si.edu)), other Smithsonian websites, and third-party sites on which it maintains a presence ("SI Websites") in support of its mission for the "increase and diffusion of knowledge." The Smithsonian invites visitors to use its online content for personal, educational and other non-commercial purposes. By using this website, you accept and agree to abide by the [following terms](#).

- If sharing the material in personal and educational contexts, please cite the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum Archives as source of the content and the project title as provided at the top of the document. Include the accession number or collection name; when possible, link to the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum Archives website.
- If you wish to use this material in a for-profit publication, exhibition, or online project, please contact Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum Archives or [transcribe@si.edu](mailto:transcribe@si.edu)

For more information on this project and related material, contact the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum Archives. [See this project](#) and other collections in the Smithsonian Transcription Center.

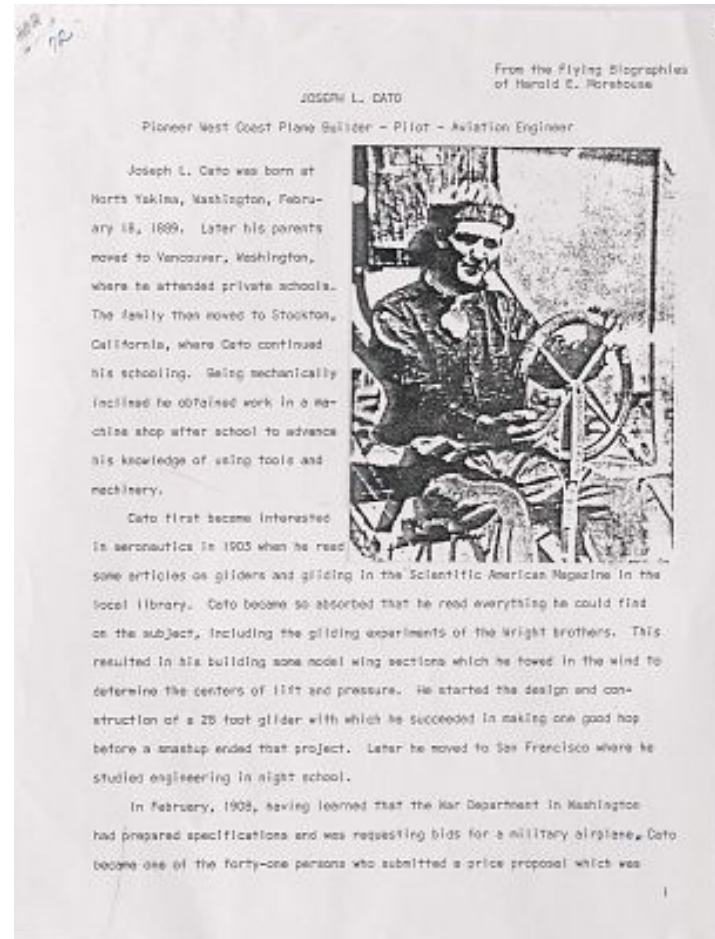
From the Flying Biographies  
of Harold E. Morehouse

JOSEPH L. CATO  
Pioneer West Coast Plane Builder - Pilot - Aviation Engineer

Joseph L. Cato was born at [[image]] North Yakima, Washington, February 18, 1889. Later his parents moved to Vancouver, Washington, where he attended private schools. The family then moved to Stockton, California, where Cato continued his schooling. Being mechanically inclined, he obtained work in a machine shop after school to advance his knowledge of using tools and machinery.

Cato first became interested in aeronautics in 1903 when he read some articles on gliders and gliding in the Scientific American Magazine in the local library. Cato became so absorbed that he read everything he could find on the subject, including the experiments of the Wright brothers. This resulted in his building some model wing sections which he towed in the wind to determine the centers of lift and pressure. He started the design and construction of a 28 foot glider with which he succeeded in making one good hop before a smashup ended that project. Later he moved to San Francisco where he studied engineering in night school.

In February, 1908, having learned that the War Department in Washington had prepared specifications and was requesting bids for a military airplane, Cato became one of the forty-one persons who submitted a price proposal which was



Harold E. Morehouse Flying Pioneers Biographies Collection - Cato, Joseph L.  
Transcribed and Reviewed by Digital Volunteers  
Extracted Mar-28-2024 12:50:18



## Smithsonian Institution

*Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum Archives*

The mission of the Smithsonian is the increase and diffusion of knowledge - shaping the future by preserving our heritage, discovering new knowledge, and sharing our resources with the world. Founded in 1846, the Smithsonian is the world's largest museum and research complex, consisting of 19 museums and galleries, the National Zoological Park, and nine research facilities. Become an active part of our mission through the Transcription Center. Together, we are discovering secrets hidden deep inside our collections that illuminate our history and our world.

Join us!

The Transcription Center: <https://transcription.si.edu>

On Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/SmithsonianTranscriptionCenter>

On Twitter: [@TranscribeSI](https://twitter.com/TranscribeSI)

Connect with the Smithsonian

Smithsonian Institution: [www.si.edu](http://www.si.edu)

On Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Smithsonian>

On Twitter: [@smithsonian](https://twitter.com/smithsonian)