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Harold E. Morehouse Flying Pioneers Biographies Collection - DeGiers, Clarence A.

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FROM THE
FLYING PIONEERS BIOGRAPHIES
OF HAROLD E. MOREHOUSE

for Colliers Weekly; O. G. Simmons, pilot of Collier's plane, and Wright pilot A. L. Welsh, all sailed for Panama with Collier's Wright Model B aeroplane to see if it would be possible to take aerial photos of the canal area for Colliers Weekly. A short time later Jesse Seligman sailed for Panama with a Moisant monoplane to also attempt some flying there.

Later that spring deGiers sailed for Panama with a 7-cylinder 50 Gnome-powered Moisant monoplane to also attempt some exhibition and photographic flying. By the time deGiers arrived the two other groups had given up flight attempts after considerable investigation of the area, sailing for home without ever uncrating their planes.

deGiers was under contract to first conduct some exhibition flights at Panama City, where on April 21st he made the first flight in that part of the world when he flew over the city and surrounding vicinity, to win a \$3,000 purse for the first flight in Panama. Flying from Juan Franco Field he repeated fine performances on April 22d through the 28th before huge crowds, making daily flights up to 35 minutes duration. During these flights deGiers experienced considerable engine trouble and he remained there until a new engine was received from New York, then began flying again on May 26th.

He remained in Panama for a time to make exhibition flights at various points and reportedly made some movies of canal construction from his plane where possible, but evidently did not attempt a trans-Isthmus flight.

Returning to New York he sailed for Europe in late June to study aviation developments there. After his return he at various times was associated with the Burgess Company, the Sturtevant Aeroplane Company, the Benoist Aeroplane Company, the Grundy School of Aviation, and in 1916 through 1917 he was test pilot for the Aeromarine Company at Keyport, New Jersey on World War I Naval aircraft.

Following World War I deGiers reportedly became associated with the Kelly Springfield Tire Company, then in 1920 he formed the Liquidometer Corporation at Long Island City, New York to manufacture various related automotive and aircraft accessory products. His firm prospered and became widely recognized as a leader in this field.

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