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Harold E. Morehouse Flying Pioneers Biographies Collection - DePew, Richard H.

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E. Arthur Company of New York, Airport Planners and Builders.

DePew became a member of Caterpillar Club during the summer of 1929 while flying a passenger to Cleveland in a Fairchild 71. They encountered a bad storm west of Reading, Pennsylvania and were forced to jump from 11,000 feet about 20 miles east of Johnstown, Pennsylvania. That year he was a member of the Committee of Commercial Aircraft Manufacturers Section of the Aeronautical Chamber of Commerce.

He left Fairchild in 1932 to test and demonstrate Pitcairn autogyros, where he remained until 1934. During this period he was also Vice-President in charge of flying for the Aviation Country Club at Hicksville, Long Island, New York. In 1934 DePew joined Beckwith Havens as a partner in a northeastern regional distributorship of Fairchild planes, with headquarters at Roosevelt Field, Long Island. He remained in this venture until 1938 when he became Vice-President and General Manager of the Taylor-Young Airplane Company, Alliance, Ohio, manufacturers of Taylor-craft planes.

In 1943 he returned with Fairchild as a manager of special projects at Hagerstown, Maryland, and while there served as Captain of the Maryland Wing of the Civil Air Patrol.

DePew remained at Hagerstown until 1945 when the Government sent him to Germany on a technical intelligence mission. On his return he was placed in charge of the Aircraft Disposal Section of the War Assets Administration in Washington, D.C.

In June, 1946 DePew was elected Vice-President in charge of operations for the Ludington-Griswold Corporation of Saybrook, Connecticut, manufacturers of various aircraft devices. In early 1947 he suffered a heart attack and resigned his position to rest and recuperate. He later became a Director of Sales for the Frank Ambros Corporation of Flushing, Long Island until he passed away unexpectedly at his home in Garden City, Long Island on January 28, 1948 of the cerebral hemorrhage at age 55. He was survived by his wife, a son and a brother.

DePew was one of the founder members of the Early Birds and served in various administrative capacities in that organization over the year, and was President from 1944 to 1946. He was also a member of the Society of Automotive Engineers, National Aeronautic Association, The Quiet Birdmen, Institute of Aeronautics

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