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## **Harold E. Morehouse Flying Pioneers Biographies Collection - Diehl, William C.**

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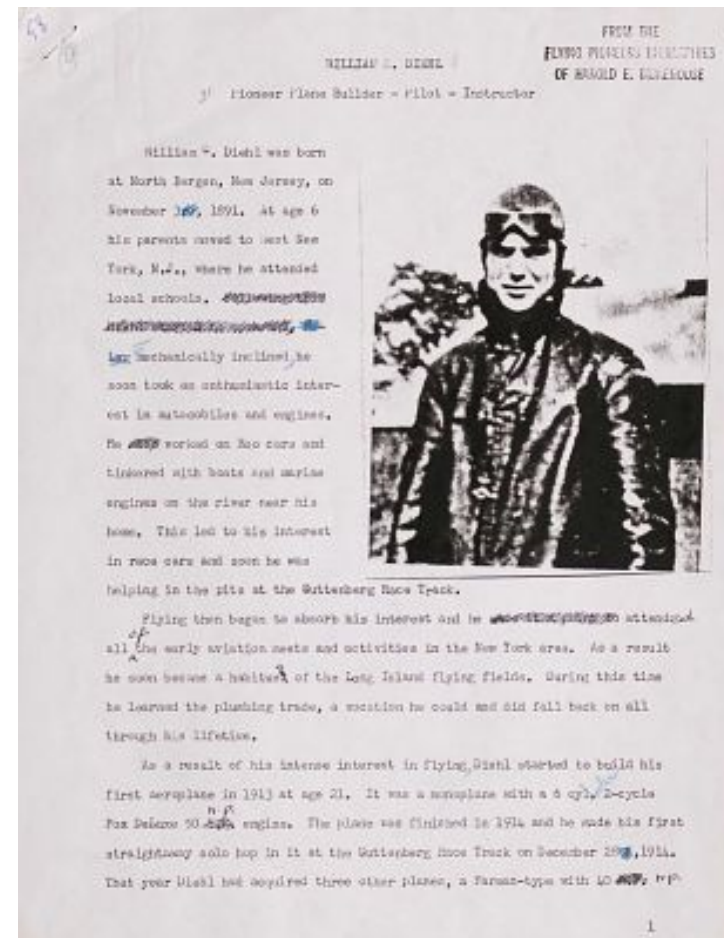
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WILLIAM C. DIEHL  
Pioneer Plane Builder-Pilot-Instructor

William C. Diehl was born at North Bergen, New Jersey, on November 3 ~~[[Strikethrough]]~~, 1891. At age 6 his parents moved to West New York, N.J., where he attended local schools. ~~[[Strikethrough]]~~ mechanically inclined, he soon took an enthusiastic interest in automobiles and engines. He ~~[[Strikethrough]]~~ worked on Reo cars and tinkered with boats and marine engines on the river near his home. This led to his interest in race cars and soon he was helping in the pits at the Guttenberg Race Track.

Flying then began to absorb his interest and he ~~[[Strikethrough]]~~ attended all of the early aviation meets and activities in the New York area. As a result he soon became a habitue ~~[[Strikethrough]]~~ of the Long Island flying fields. During this time he learned the plumbing trade, a vocation he could and did fall back on all through his lifetime.

As a result of his intense interest in flying, Diehl started to build his first aeroplane in 1913 at age 21. It was a monoplane with a 6 cylinder 2-cycle Fox DeLuxe 50 n.p ~~[[?]]~~ engine. The plane was finished in 1914 and he made his first straightaway solo hop in it at the Guttenberg Race Track on December 28 ~~[[Strikethrough]]~~, 1914. That year Diehl had acquired three other planes, a Farman-type with 40 n.p. ~~[[?]]~~.



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