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## **Harold E. Morehouse Flying Pioneers Biographies Collection - Ely, Eugene B.**

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[[stamped]] FROM THE FLYING PIONEERS OF HAROLD E. MOREHOUSE [[/stamped]]

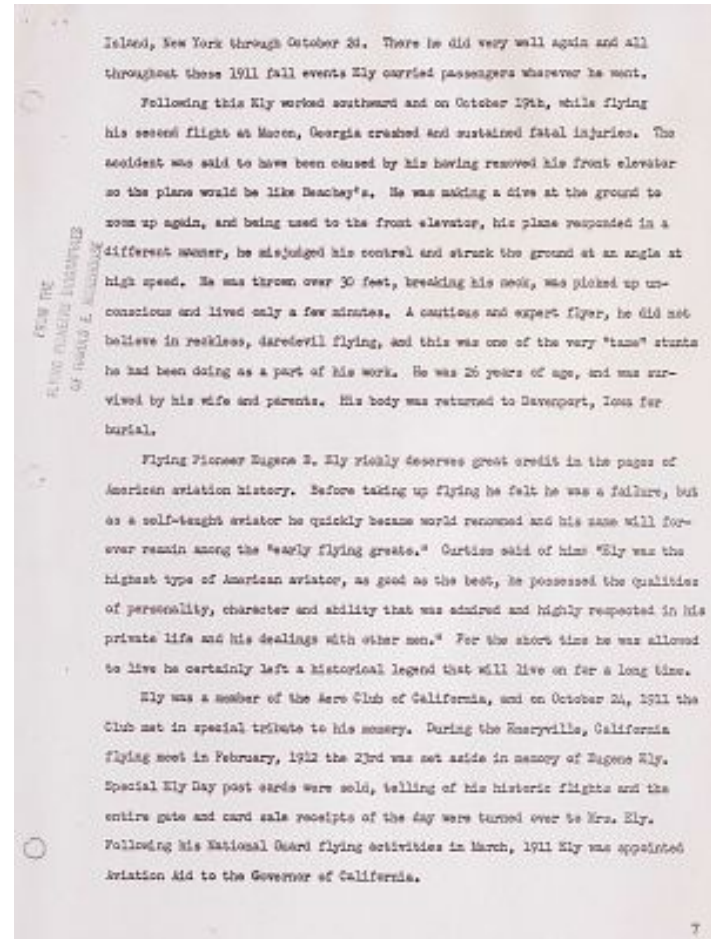
Island, New York through October 2d. There he did very well again and all throughout these 1911 fall events Ely carried passengers wherever he went.

Following this Ely worked southward and on October 19th, while flying his second flight at Macon, Georgia crashed and sustained fatal injuries. The accident was said to have been caused by his having removed his front elevator so the plane would be like Beachey's. He was making a dive at the ground to zoom up again, and being used to the front elevator, his plane responded in a different manner, he misjudged his control and struck the ground at an angle at high speed. He was thrown over 30 feet, breaking his neck, was picked up unconscious and lived only a few minutes. A cautious and expert flyer, he did not believe in reckless, daredevil flying, and this was one of the very "tame" stunts he had been doing as a part of his work. He was 26 years of age, and was survived by his wife and parents. His body was returned to Davenport, Iowa for burial.

Flying Pioneer Eugene B. Ely richly deserves great credit in the pages of American aviation history. Before taking up flying he felt he was a failure, but as a self-taught aviator he quickly became world renowned and his name will forever remain along the "early flying greats." Curtiss said of him: "Ely was the highest type of American aviator, as good as the best, he possessed the qualities of personality, character and ability that was admired and highly respected in his private life and his dealings with other men." For the short time he was allowed to live he certainly left a historical legend that will live on for a long time.

Ely was a member of the Aero Club of California, and on October 24, 1911 the Club met in special tribute to his memory. During the Emeryville, California flying meet in February, 1912 the 23rd was set aside in memory Eugene Ely. Special Ely Day post cards were sold, telling of his historic flights and the entire gate and card sale receipts of the day were turned over to Mrs. Ely. Following his National Guard flying activities in March, 1911 Ely was appointed Aviation Aid to the Governor of California.

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