



Smithsonian Institution

Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum Archives

Harold E. Morehouse Flying Pioneers Biographies Collection - Fowler, Robert G.

Extracted on Mar-29-2024 10:36:25

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), 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

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.

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

ROBERT G. FOWLER
Early Wright Pilot

[[image]]

First to fly across the U.S. from West to East

Robert G. Fowler was born at San Francisco, California August 10, 1884. He attended local schools then graduated from Island Stanford University. During his early life the family moved to Gilroy, California where his father was engaged in the automobile business at the beginning of that industry. Young Fowler loved automobiles and went into this work with his father, soon becoming an expert driver and mechanic.

This led him to engage in road races, hill climbs and track events through the early 1900's. He reportedly drove the first Ford car west in 1903. In 1904 he held the record for circular tracks at Belmont Park, New York. In 1905 he set a record when he drove from San Francisco to Los Angeles in 24 hours. In 1906 he made this same run in 21 hours, and later, in 1910, in 14 hours. During these years he also became a renowned chauffeur on the west coast and drove for various distinguished personages.

A lover of speed, Fowler naturally became interested in aviation beginning with the first days of the Wright Brothers. This led him to the North Island Curtiss camp at San Diego during the winter months of 1910-1911 where he reportedly assisted them with their engine problems. There Fowler resolved he wanted to learn to fly. Big prize money was waiting to be taken

1



Harold E. Morehouse Flying Pioneers Biographies Collection - Fowler, Robert G.
Transcribed and Reviewed by Digital Volunteers
Extracted Mar-29-2024 10:36:25



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

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

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