



Smithsonian Institution

Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum Archives

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

Extracted on Apr-17-2024 10:12:20

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]]

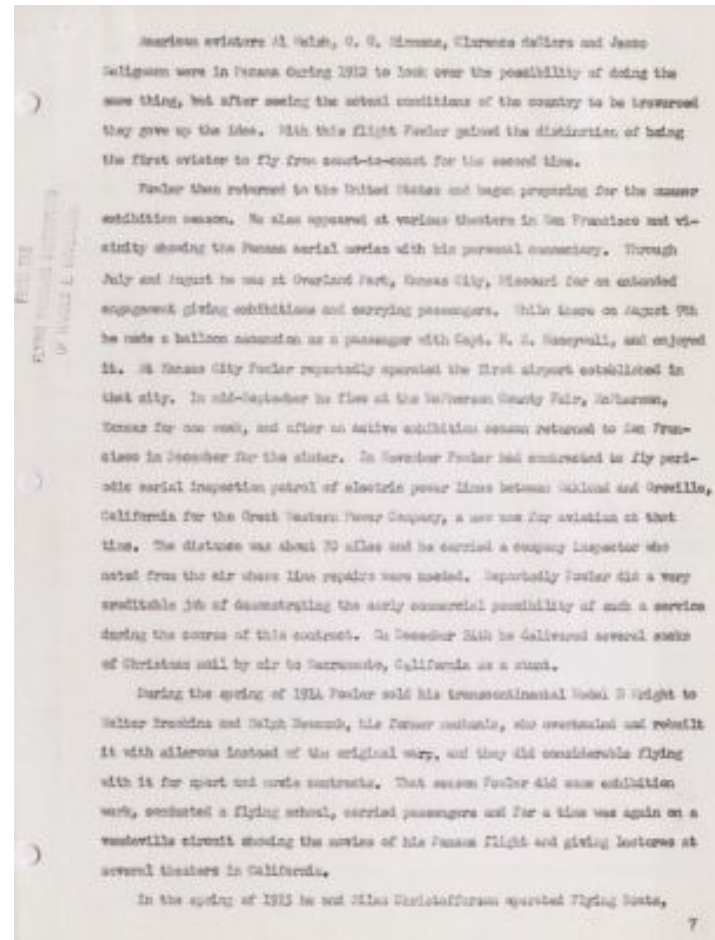
American aviators Al Welsh, O. G. Simmons, Clarence deGiers and Jesse Seligmann were in Panama during 1912 to look over the possibility of doing the same thing, but after seeing the actual conditions of the country to be traversed they gave up the idea. With this flight Fowler gained the distinction of being the first aviator to fly from coast-to-coast for the second time.

Fowler then returned to the United States and began preparing for the summer exhibition season. He also appeared at various theaters in San Francisco and vicinity showing the Panama aerial movies with his personal commentary. Through July and August he was at Overland Park, Kansas City, Missouri for an extended engagement giving exhibitions and carrying passengers. While there on August 9th he made a balloon ascension as a passenger with Capt. H.E. Honeywell, and enjoyed it. At Kansas City Fowler reportedly operated the first airport established in that city. In mid-September he flew at the McPherson County Fair, McPherson, Kansas for one week, and after an active exhibition season returned to San Francisco in December for the winter. In November Fowler had contracted to fly periodic aerial inspection patrol of electric power lines between Oakland and Oroville, California for the Great Western Power Company, a new use for aviation at that time. The distance was about 70 miles and he carried a company inspector who noted from the air where line repairs were needed. Reportedly Fowler did a very creditable job of demonstrating the early commercial possibility of such a service during the course of this contract. On December 24th he delivered several sacks of Christmas mail by air to Sacramento, California as a stunt.

During the spring of 1914 Fowler sold his transcontinental Model B Wright to Walter Brookins and Ralph Newcomb, his former mechanic, who overhauled and rebuilt it with ailerons instead of the original warp, and they did considerable flying with it for sport and movie contracts. That season Fowler did some exhibition work, conducted a flying school, carried passengers and for a time was again on a vaudeville circuit showing the movies of his Panama flight and giving lectures at several theaters in California.

In the spring of 1915 he and Silas Christofferson operated Flying Boats,

7



Harold E. Morehouse Flying Pioneers Biographies Collection - Fowler, Robert G.
Transcribed and Reviewed by Digital Volunteers
Extracted Apr-17-2024 10:12:20



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)