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Harold E. Morehouse Flying Pioneers Biographies Collection - Hild, Frederick C.

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permitted, and on February 13th flew cross-country to Floral Park and return, circling Garden City and Mineola. Enroute he encountered engine trouble, landed in a field, corrected his trouble and took off, returning to Hempstead. On February 16th, 1913 he made eight flights, again flying over Mineola, Westbury and Garden City. Hild now had an enclosed cockpit for winter flying.

On February 28, 1913, Hild received F. A. I. License No. 216 at Garden City, flying a Roberts-Four Bleriot, to become the first person to qualify on an American-built Bleriot with such an engine. During his tests he surprised the observers by flying to 2800 ~~[[strikethrough]]~~ Ft ~~[[strikethrough]]~~ feet altitude. On March 4th Hild started from Hempstead, Long Island intending to land in Central Park, New York as a publicity stunt. He flew over Mineola, Roslyn, Great Neck, College Point, White Stone, Long Island City and down the East River to 23rd Street where he ran out of gas. He glided down and under the Queensboro Bridge to a landing on Blackwell's Island in the Penitentiary Yard. After getting gas he attempted to take off but taxied ~~[[taxied]]~~ in to some deep mud and stood the Bleriot on its nose, breaking the propeller. He barely escaped being put in jail for this episode. That month he opened a flying school at Hempstead with a new two-seater, dual-control plane and later started carrying passengers. Hild continued to fly actively at Garden City and Hempstead through the spring months of 1913, and on May 31st flew over a polo game in progress at Meadow Brook, Long Island and "stole the show," but his flying license was revoked for a while because of this infraction in flying rules. He was active through the summer months and on occasional week-ends raced Billy Watson in Simplex Race car at the Long Island Speedway. Reportedly Hild also taught a few pupils that summer at the American Aeroplane Supply Company School.

On August 5th he flew his first exhibition date on the road at Newton, New Jersey at the Sussex County Horse Race and Carnival; then on August 25th started a week's engagement at the Asbury Park, New Jersey Athletic Park Parade Grounds. Huge crowds attended this event where he put on a great show. From there he flew to Sea Girt, New Jersey to fly at a Soldiers Encampment. On October 12th Hild made the first flight tests of a home-built Bleriot at East Henrietta,

3

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