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Harold E. Morehouse Flying Pioneers Biographies Collection - Longren, Alvin K.

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over and rolled, damaging the plane and propeller, but he was not injured. During World War I Longren served in aircraft inspection work at McCook Field, Dayton, Ohio.

In 1919 he re-established the Longren Aircraft Corporation at Topeka, when in 1921 he brought out the Model AK training biplane. It was of unique construction, having a moulded, streamlined vulcanized fibre fuselage, reinforced internally by ash stringers and light laminated ribs. It had folding wings for easy storage and was powered by a 60 H.P. Anzani engine. At that time he had own flying field and hangar adjacent to his factory and was operating two planes for training and passenger carrying.

In 1923 Longren received an order for and built three fibre fuselage planes for the Navy Department. In 1924 the Longren Aircraft Corporation was dissolved.

When the Spartan Aircraft Company was formed at Tulsa, Oklahoma in January, 1928 Longren became Vice President of the new firm. There he assisted in the design and development of the well known Spartan biplanes.

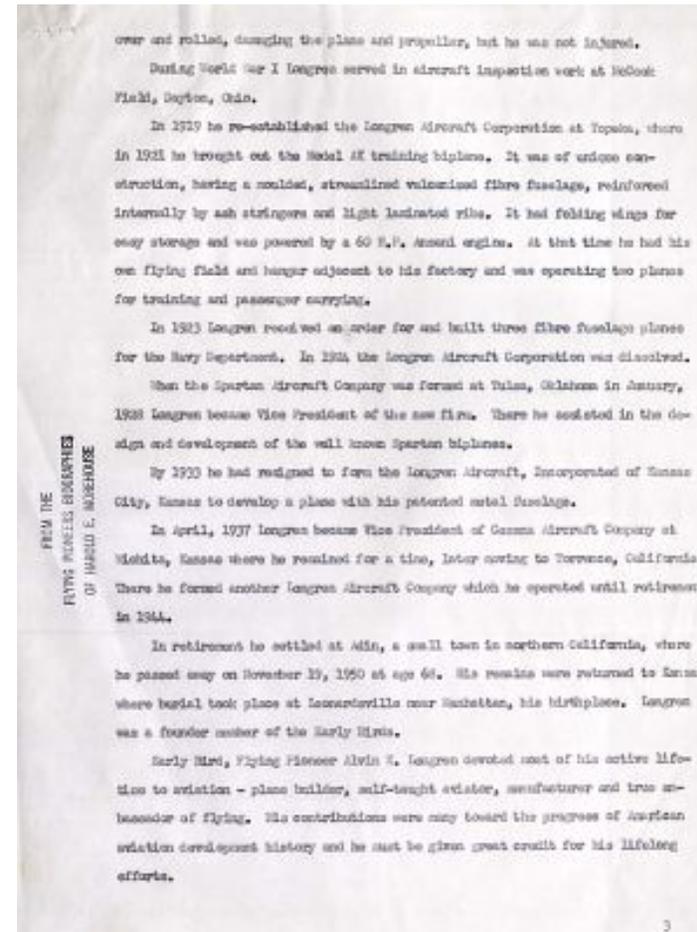
By 1933 he had resigned to form the Longren Aircraft, Incorporated of Kansas City, Kansas to develop a plane with his patented metal fuselage.

In April, 1937 Longren became Vice President of Cessna Aircraft Company at Wichita, Kansas where he remained for a time, later moving to Torrance, California. There he formed another Longren Aircraft Company which he operated until retirement in 1944.

In retirement he settle at Adin, a small town in northern California, where he passed away on November 19, 1950 at age 68. His remains were returned to Kansas where burial took place at Leonardsville near Manhattan, his birthplace. Longren was a founder member of Early Birds.

Early Bird, Flying Pioneer Alvin K. Longren devoted most of his active lifetime to aviation - plane builder, self-taught aviator, manufacturer and true ambassador of flying. His contributions were many toward the progress of American aviation development history and he must be given great credit for his lifelong efforts.

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