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Harold E. Morehouse Flying Pioneers Biographies Collection - McClaskey, John W.

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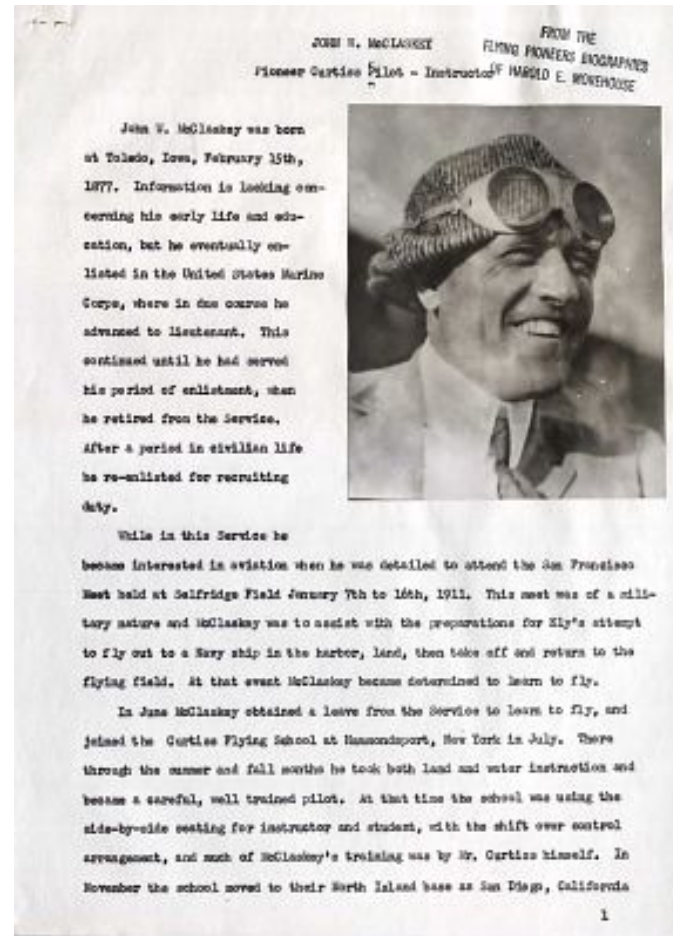
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From the Flying Pioneers Biographies of Harold E. Morehouse

John W. McClaskey
Pioneer Curtiss Pilot - Instructor

John W. McClaskey was born at Toledo, Iowa, February 15th, 1877. Information is lacking concerning his early life and education, but he eventually enlisted in the United States Marine Corps, where in due course he advanced to Lieutenant. This continued until he had served his period of enlistment, when he retired from the Service. After a period in civilian life he re-enlisted for recruiting duty. While in this Service he became interested in aviation when he was detailed to attend the San Francisco Meet held at Selfridge Field January 7th to 16th, 1911. This meet was of his military nature and McClaskey was to assist with the preparations for Ely's attempt to fly out to a Navy ship in the harbor, land, then take off and return to the flying field. At that event McClaskey became determined to learn to fly. In June McClaskey obtained a leave from the Service to learn to fly, and joined the Curtiss Flying School at Hammondsport, New York in July. There through the summer and fall months he took both land and water instruction and became a careful, well trained pilot. At that time the school was using the side-by-side seating for instructor and student, with the shift over control arrangement, and much of McClaskey's training was by Mr. Curtiss himself. In November the school moved to their North Island base at San Diego, California.

Picture of a man - probably John W. McClaskey



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