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Harold E. Morehouse Flying Pioneers Biographies Collection - McCurdy, John A.D.

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New York, On July 23rd. July 27th to August 1st both McCurdy and Willard flew at Hamilton, Ontario, then on August 2nd they raced each other on a 40-mile cross-country flight to Toronto. They flew exhibitions there until August 6th when McCurdy had a smashup, but was not injured.

On August 9th McCurdy was at Lexington, Kentucky, and while there he flew to neighboring Winchester and return. He then went to the Chicago Meet at Grant Park, held August 12th to 20th, and was an active daily contestant. September 2nd to 4th he was at Louisville, Kentucky, then at the Nassau Boulevard Meet in New York September 23rd to October 2nd. Doc Wildman was also flying a McCurdy-Willard Plane there at that time. McCurdy then started south, flying at Hattiesburg, Mississippi, on October 5th and Natchez, Mississippi, October 20th and 21st. Starting November 16th McCurdy and Willard were at Mexico City. This evidently was his last date of the season, and the McCurdy-Willard Company venture appears to have ended that fall.

McCurdy then decided to take a well-earned rest from flying, and as it turned out later, he gave up public exhibition work entirely after 1911. Between March 1st and the 17th, 1912, McCurdy made a number of straight-away test runs and a few hops in a bell kite, the Cygnet III, at Baddeck, Nova Scotia, using a 70 hp., Gnome engine. Occasionally during that summer he was at Hammondsport watching flying boat developments and doing some flying.

In the spring of 1913 a number of well-known wealthy American sportsmen bought Curtiss flying boats for sport and pleasure. Among them was George von Utassy of New York who engaged McCurdy to take charge of the craft, fly it and teach him to fly. In July McCurdy was at Hammondsport overseeing the completion of this boat and later that month Utassy arrived to take some initial instruction. In early August the new boat was at Long Beach, New York, where McCurdy was busy carrying distinguished passengers and

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