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Harold E. Morehouse Flying Pioneers Biographies Collection - Mitchell, Louis

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organized in partnership with Eugene Heth of Birmingham, Mich., a well known automobile man and engine expert. Reportedly Mitchell's first idea was to employ aviators to do the flying and he would manage the business.

In May, 1911 he purchased a new Burgees-Wright Model F airplane from the Burgees Co. and Curtis, Marblehead, Mass. and on May 17th he was in Marblehead to witness the test flights of his new machine. These flights were made by Mr. Burgess himself, while there Mitchell made arrangements for the training of two men at the Burgess Flying School which was to open about May 30th. Accordingly Eugene Heth and John E. Meyers were sent to Marblehead to take flight instruction. Heth went on to become a famous aviator but Meyers apparently quit during instruction. Mitchell finally succeeded in being accepted at the Wright School, Dayton, Ohio and started taking instruction there about the middle of July, 1911. His instructor was Cliff Turpin, and on August 8, 1911 he flew for his license, No. 57, on a school Wright at Simms Station. While Mitchell was at Dayton he purchased a Wright Model B plane which he later used in exhibition work. As a graduate of only a few days he entered and attended the famed Chicago Air Meet at Grant Park August 12 - 20, 1911 but advisedly did not do much flying due to the congestion of the event and his inexperience.

On September 1st Mitchell and Eugene Heth made their first public exhibition flights at Memphis for the hometown people. Oscar Brindley joined them for that event. The occasion was so well attended that they all flew there again on September 15th. They continued to make flights there through November, occasionally carrying passengers. Following this, Mitchell and Heth flew at Tupelo, Miss. December 5, 6 and 7; West Point, Miss. December 8 and 9; Canton Miss. December 12 and 13 and Yazoo City December 15 and 16.

Starting February 25th, 1912 Mitchell and Heth flew at New Orleans, La. then to Baton Rouge February 28 and 29. Following this they exhibited at Montgomery, Alabama March 4 - 9 at a small meet. Also flying there were Brindley, Harold Kantner, Fred Schneider and Paul Peck, who circled the old Capitol Building of the Confederacy. April 15 - 20 Mitchell and Heth flew at Birmingham, Ala. July 4 - 7 they exhibited at a small local air meet at Lexington, Ky. along with Oscar Brindley, Leonard Bonney and Paul Peck. While at that meet, J. H. Worden of the Moisant Company delivered and demonstrated to Mitchell a Moisant Monoplane with Gnome engine. On August 7th Mitchell and Heth flew at Berrian Springs, Mich.; August 11 and 12 at

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