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Harold E. Morehouse Flying Pioneers Biographies Collection - Moisant, Matilde

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In February and March, 1912, Matilda filled a few engagements in the Southwest with Houpert and Kantner. March 6th to 9th they were at Donaldsville, Louisiana, then March 24th to 28th at Dallas, Texas, for an Elks convention. On April 14th at Wichita Falls, Texas, she had a narrow escape when her plane caught fire from a leaking fuel tank and she was pulled from the burning plane with her clothing on fire. She had been involved in other accidents on that exhibition tour, so at the insistence of her family she gave up flying.

Following retirement Matilda lived in El Salvador for several years, where the family had financial interests, then later returned to California, making her home at La Crescenta. She joined the Early Birds in 1935, and was also an honorary member of the Ninety-Nine~~[[strikethrough]]~~~~[[/strikethrough]]~~s, an organization of women pilots, and belonged to the Blue Yonder Fliers. In her later years she was active in Red Cross and hospital activities. Matilda passed away at Glendale Hospital, Glendale, California, on February 5, 1964, at age 77. She had never married. Interment was in the Portal of Folded Wings, Valhalla Memorial Park, North Hollywood, California.

Flying Pioneer, Early Bird Matilda Moisant was one of the first American women to take up flying, purely as sport. Daughter of a wealthy family, she flew for the fun of it. In the short period of less than one year she gained fame and prominence that survived for her lifetime and now must be recorded as her contribution to early American aviation history.

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