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Harold E. Morehouse Flying Pioneers Biographies Collection - Ovington, Earle L.

Extracted on Mar-28-2024 10:41:47

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[[stamped]] FROM THE FLYING PIONEERS BIOGRAPHIES OF
HAROLD E. MOREHOUSE [[/stamped]]

as a business and not as a barnstormer. He had done well that season both by accomplishments and financially. He had entered all the major flying events of the 1911 season, was an active competitor and set up many "firsts".

Through 1912-1913 he wrote for the aviation magazines and resumed his electrical business. In 1914 Ovington bought one-half interest in the Atlantic City, New Jersey Curtiss Flying Station and became a director of the Curtiss Company. There he again resumed flying, selling Curtiss flying boats, taking fishing parties off shore, carrying passengers and made a number of air rescue flights in distress situations.

In 1920 Ovington sold those interests and moved to Santa Barbara, California where he purchased land and started a subdivision. On a part of it he established the Casa Loma Flying Field which he owned and operated for some time. He also opened an electrical and aeronautical engineering office in Santa Barbara, but continued flying for sport and business.

In April, 1926 Ovington took the Southern California dealership for Swallow planes, built in Wichita, Kansas. On November 7th, 1927 he took delivery of a new Beech OX-powered Travelair plane at Wichita, Kansas and flew it to California. In 1929 he was connected with the Roam Air Aircraft Corporation of Los Angeles, California as designer of a new sport plane called the Roamair. He continued these business activities and by 1932 owned his tenth personal plane.

There Ovington died of heart ailments on July 22d, 1936 at age 56. He was survived by his wife, a son and a daughter. Following cremation his remains were flown off shore at Santa Monica by Art Klien and dropped into the ocean. Planes carrying fellow Early Birds and QB members accompanied the flight. Ovington was a founder member of the Early Birds and was their second President in 1930. He was the holder of many valuable electrical patents, a Lieutenant Commander, U.S. Naval Reserve and a member of many clubs.

Early Bird, Flying Pioneer, Earle L. Ovington was indeed one of the extraordinary flying enthusiasts of the early era. With skilled and determined judgement he had few accidents and set up an early flying record not equalled [[equalled]] by many at that time. He was always highly regarded as a gentleman and a real ambassador of flying.

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