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Harold E. Morehouse Flying Pioneers Biographies Collection - Schmitt, George

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On August 1st he started a 4-day engagement at Bellefontaine, Ohio flying at the Logan County Fair. One day while there he also flew to Kenton, Ohio, 25 miles, for an exhibition, then returned to Bellefontaine. August 5th to 8th he was at Fort Recovery, Ohio at a Harvest Festival Celebration, where he carried authorized mail. Before the event was over he broke a crankshaft and aviator Earl Sandt came to finish the engagement. Following this Schmitt flew at Portsmouth, Hamilton, Coney Island, and Hicksville, all in Ohio, before completing his tour.

He then returned to Rutland where he and Leonard Bonney flew at the local Fair September 2d to 6th, Bonney flying a Deperdussin monoplane for the Sloane Aeroplane Company of New York. After this Schmitt flew at the Dog River Valley Fair at Northfield, Vermont on September 10th, then exhibited at the Caledonia County Fair at St. Johnsbury, Vermont September 12th and 13th. As the month ended he had completed a very active season of exhibition flying, having appeared at 28 cities since July 2d.

That fall Thor and Schmitt again arranged for an extensive winter exhibition tour through the West Indies and the Caribbean. They left New York on November 2d on an expedition to last through February 1913, giving exhibitions and demonstrating their Rausenberger-powered Baldwin plane before Government officials. On this tour they were in the Bahamas, Puerto Rico, Colombia, Trinidad, The Barbados and Brazil. The tour was completed without accidents and was a financial success, and they did not return until June. During this trip Schmitt flew at many points before throngs of natives who had never before seen an aeroplane, and he received great acclaim everywhere. After returning he took a much needed rest and prepared to overhaul his plane and engine for fall engagements.

Again his townspeople had him fly at their local Fair starting Labor Day, and arrangements were made for him to carry authorized mail during the event. A sub-station was provided at the Fairgrounds for collections and Schmitt was to fly the day's mail to a point near the Rutland Post Office where he would drop it for dispatch. On Monday, September 1st, he made 13 flights at the Fair, carrying several friends as passengers.

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