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*Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum Archives*

### Harold E. Morehouse Flying Pioneers Biographies Collection - Vilas, Logan A. "Jack"

Extracted on Mar-29-2024 09:55:54

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served in various capacities in aeronautical programs. later he became affiliated with the Pyle-National Company of Chicago which his father had founded. In the early 1940's Vilas was Assistant to the President of this firm.

Vilas was one of the founder members of the Early Birds and was President of that organization from 1938 through 1940. He was Chief of Staff of the Chicago Times Air Cadets at one time, and a Member of the Board of the Journal of Air Law and Commerce. During World War II he served as Lieutenant Colonel in the Air Force, organized the Illinois Civil Air Patrol and became its Wing Commander.

On July 1st, 1948 a plaque was dedicated at the foot of Monroe Street in Chicago to commemorate his flight across Lake Michigan in 1913. Vilas was honored in 1962 when United Air Lines named one of their jet Mainliners "The Jack Vilas" during ceremonies at Chicago's O'Hare Airport. Still living, he also maintains a southern home at Bonita Springs, Florida.

Flying Pioneer, Early Bird Logan A. Vilas devoted most of his active lifetime to aviation. As a wealthy sportsman he was always promoting the future of flying and expended considerable of his own means to that end. A very competent pilot, his flying career was free of accidents, and his major contributions must be well recorded in the annals of American aviation history.

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