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Harold E. Morehouse Flying Pioneers Biographies Collection - Walden, Henry W.

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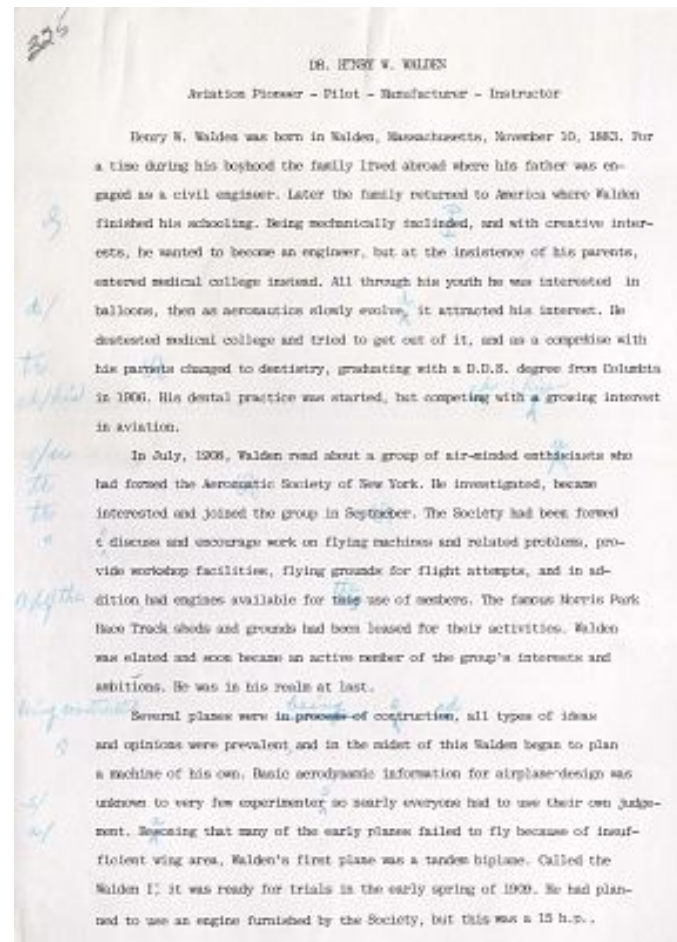
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DR. HENRY W. WALDEN
Aviation Pioneer - Pilot - Manufacturer - Instructor

Henry W. Walden was born in Walden, Massachusetts, November 10, 1883. For a time during his boyhood the family lived abroad where his father was engaged as a civil engineer. Later the family returned to America where Walden finished his schooling. Being mechanically inclined, and with creative interests, he wanted to become an engineer, but at the insistence of his parents, entered medical college instead. All through his youth he was interested in balloons, then as aeronautics slowly evolved, it attracted his interest. He detested medical college and tried to get out of it, and as a compromise with his parents changed to dentistry, graduating with a D.D.S. degree from Columbia in 1906. His dental practice was started, but competing with ~~his growing interest~~ a growing interest in aviation.

In July, 1908, Walden read about a group of air-minded enthusiasts who had formed the Aeronautic Society of New York. He investigated, became interested and joined the group in September. The Society had been formed to discuss and encourage work on flying machines and related problems, provide workshop facilities, flying grounds for flight attempts, and in addition had engines available for ~~the use of members~~ this the use of members. The famous Morris Park Race Track sheds and grounds had been leased for their activities. Walden was elated and soon became an active member of the group's interests and ambitions. He was in his realm at last.

Several planes were ~~in process of construction~~ in process of construction, all types of ideas and opinions were prevalent, and in the midst of this Walden began to plan a machine of his own. Basic aerodynamic information for airplane-design was unknown to very few experimenters so nearly everyone had to use their own judgement. Reasoning that many of the early planes failed to fly because of insufficient wing area, Walden's first plane was a tandem biplane. Called the Walden I, it was ready for trials in the early spring of 1909. He had planned to use an engine furnished by the Society, but this was a 15 h.p.,



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