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Harold E. Morehouse Flying Pioneers Biographies Collection - Webster, Clifford L.

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Yacht from Aberdeen, Maryland, to Port Washington, L.I., 188 miles in 80 minutes, carrying Grover Loening and Naval Commander H.C. Richardson. On October 14, 1921 he made six round trips from Fort Washington, L.I. to New London, Conn. carrying four passengers each way during a flying competition. He received the Annual Wright Trophy for this accomplishment. On April 17, 1922 he flew a Loening Air Yacht from Palm Beach, Florida to New York in 9 hours, 56 minutes flying time, with Fred Golder as passenger, making one stop at Southport, N.C. for gas. Shortly after this Vincent Astor purchased a Loening Air Yacht and Webster was his pilot for a time. In 1927 Webster obtained Transport Pilot License No. 297, and that year flew for the Curtiss Flying Service for out two months at Mineola, L.I., then went to M.I.T. for a year as a special student in Aeronautical Engineering.

During the summer of 1928 he became test pilot for the Fairchild Aero Engineering Co. at Farmingdale, L.I. In 1929 Webster went with the American Aeronautical Corp. at Port Washington, L.I. as a test pilot and flight station manager, flying American-made Italian Savoia planes. He remained with them until they went out of business in 1931 and during his stay there made a flight in a Savoia S-55 from Wilmington, California to Port Washington, L.I. via the Isthmus of Tehuantepec, Mexico, Havana and the east coast, making eleven stops.

Webster kept active his pilot licenses until 1936. In July, 1941 he became an inspector at Grumman and later an Aeronautical Engineer with Consolidated-Vultee at Allentown, Pa. until the end of World War II.

Retired Early Bird Clifford L. Webster lives at West Palm Beach, Florida. An extremely active early pilot who put in four thousand two hundred hours in the air, he instructed many to fly and did a great deal of early test flying on new aeroplanes. Truly one of the foremost flying pioneers, he deserves great credit for his many personal contributions to early American aviation development. His name appears on the Wright Memorial Plaque at Dayton, Ohio with the many other early American airmen who learned to fly there.

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