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Harold E. Morehouse Flying Pioneers Biographies Collection - Wildman, Francis A. "Doc"

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were there in connection with this program an exhibition of water flying was put on for them by Wildman flying the Langley plane. R. V. Morris, in his monoplane flying boat, and the camera men took pictures from a flying boat flown by Lanny Callan.

Another major project was in progress at Hammondsport that Summer. Curtiss had contracted to build a large twin-engined flying boat for Rodman Wannamaker to attempt ~~to~~ a transatlantic flight. It was a very ambitious undertaking at that time and difficulty was experienced with both insufficient flotation and the necessary power to get off the water with the required load. After numerous hull changes, a third engine was added in an attempt to meet the requirements. British Naval Pilot, Lt. J.C. Porte, had been selected to fly this plane, with veteran Curtiss mechanic, George Hallett, as copilot. Wildman also assisted with this project and gave both Porte and Hallett some instruction in preparation for the undertaking.

On August 12, 1914, Wildman obtained Hydro airplane Flying License No. 22 at Hammondsport on a Curtiss flying boat. Following this he went to California to start the first late-fall and early-winter class at North Island. The first new Model "J" Tractor was there and Wildman aided in the initial flight tests. Later that month he also did some flying of Curtiss entries in the U.S. Army Signal Corps airplane competition. Over the winter months of 1914-1915 Wildman's classes were comprised principally of military officers, and the Curtiss North Island School was rapidly becoming the government's leading flight training center.

~~Wild~~ Wildman remained at North Island in the spring of 1915 and continued the training of military men and doing test work. On June 12th the House Appropriations Committee paid a visit to North Island and each member was taken for a flying boat ride by Wildman. He remained at North Island until the Curtiss Company closed the base and the government took it over as a Signal Corps Aviation School. At that time Wildman stayed on and was chief instructor in the

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