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*Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum Archives*

### Harold E. Morehouse Flying Pioneers Biographies Collection - Wood, Clyde M.

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flights and the animals seemed to love it.

That summer the Moisant Company was developing an all-new 50 H.P. Gnome-powered monoplane, designed and built by Early Bird Harold Kanter. Called the Kanter-Moisant BLUEBIRD it was superbly built and especially designed for easy tear-down and assembly for exhibition and military use, and Wood did considerable flying with this new plane.

On August 8th while Kanter was in Europe on a business trip Wood established a new American cross-country non-stop distance record by flying the Bluebird from Hempstead, Long Island to Gaithersburg, Maryland, 277 miles. His intended destination was Fort Meyer, Virginia, but he was forced to land short of his goal to adjust the engine that had been missing for some time. A special railroad train has been sent to follow Wood, but he did not see it at any time. The trip was to demonstrate the plane before Government military officers for the Moisant Company. After correcting his troubles he flew on to Fort Meyer where he remained for some time flying Government tests. When his work was completed Wood flew back to New York.

On October 13th he was a competitor in the annual Round-Manhattan Race flying the Bluebird. Also flying in the event were William S. Luckey, Charles Niles, Guy Gilpatric and Tony Jannus. It was a very stormy, windy day, creating a hazardous flight, and Wood came in third.

That fall he left the Moisant Company to accept a position as Advisor and Instructor to the Air Force of the Republic of Guatemala at Guatemala City where he remained for two years. In later years Wood was employed in Michigan and was living in Highland Park, Michigan in 1938.

After retiring he made his home at Manatee, Florida where he passed away suddenly on July 12, 1967 at age 82. He was survived by a daughter and grandchildren. He was a member of the Early Birds. His last flight was on a Boeing 720 Jet to Detroit, Michigan for burial in Evergreen Cemetery.

Flying Pioneer-Early Bird Clyde M. Wood became an active and competent pilot during the early era and did his bit to help establish our modern air age. A careful, safe pilot he apparently avoided major accidents.

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2

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