

Carlos Berry Stevens 1895-1976

Undated clipping sent by Emma Stevens, his widow. She says, "They made a mistake on the date of Carlos' death in this paper. He died the 10th of Dec, 1976"

Former World War I pilot, C.B. Stevens dies Dec. 11

A former World War I pilot, legionnaire C.B. Stevens, Fairbury, was dead on arrival at 8:08 a.m. December 11, 1976, at Fairbury hospital..

Mr. Stevens' 53 year career in aviation began in 1916, when he was an infantryman chasing Pancho Villa down on the Mexican border. During this time, he met a man who was instrumental in getting him into America's first fighter squadron. In 1917, he soloed in a Jenny after only 8½ hours flying time.

After qualifying, he was sent with America's first training squadron to Ashburn Field near Chicago. Due to field conditions and constant inclement weather in that area, he was reassigned to Chanute Field, Rantoul.

During World War I, 1st Lt. Stevens commanded the 43rd squadron at Shoreham-By-The-Sea and the 86th squadron at Scampton Field, Lincolnshire, in England. The squadrons were attached to the Royal Flying Corps and had the assigned responsibility of protecting London from the German Zeppelin raids.

Following World War I, he did some stunt flying, ferried passengers, worked as a flying salesman for a meat packing company and took people up for \$15 for minutes. Stevens walked away from three crashes during his flying career.

In the 1930's he entered the aircraft industry and was first with the experimental section of Pratt-Whitney engines and later Dodge division of Chrysler. With Dodge, he assisted with the development of the fuel injection system for the B-29's used during World War II. In the aircraft industry, Stevens was a technical representative for Douglass Aircraft in Long Beach, Calif. Stevens' only son was killed on a B-17 raid over Germany during the latter part of World War II.

His funeral was held at 11 a.m. Monday, Dec. 13, at Trinity Lutheran church in Fairbury, with Rev. James Reents officiating. Organist was Mrs. Keith Klitzing and soloist Miss Wilma Bess. Interment was in the Strawn cemetery. Stiver Home for Funerals, Fair-, bury, was in charge of arrangements.

He was born March 29, 1895, at Charleston, a son of George and Lillie Berry Stevens. He married Emma Behnke, January 1, 1938 in Chicago. They moved to Fairbury in 1967. Surviving are his wife; a daughter, Mrs. Marjorie Peterson, Northridge, Calif., three sisters, Mrs. Louise Milburn, Bethesda, Md.; Mrs. Lillian Moran, Fairbury; and Mrs. Doris Wilbanks Jacksonville, Fla.; and four grandchildren.

Also preceding him in death was a brother.

Mr. Stevens was a member of Trinity Lutheran church, Fairbury and the John Joda American Legion Post No. 54, Fairbury. - - 1

Memorials may be given to the charity of the donor's choice.

Pallbearers were Harold Ward, Duane Morris, Warren Ulfers Kenneth Kafer all of Fairbury; Henry Wrucke and Walter Kopiske, both from Minnesota.