

GEORGE PARLIN VOSE



George P. Vose, ninety three, died on March 7, 2016, at the Fort Stockton Living and Rehabilitation Center. Born May 3, 1922, in Machias, Maine, to John Pierce and Rebecca Parlin Vose, he graduated from Machias High School. He graduated from Pennsylvania State University with a degree in Geology. While at Penn State he earned his pilot's license then became a licensed Flight Instructor. Having logged less than seventy hours, he began training United States Army Air Corps cadets in the civilian flight instructor program. At the end of the Civilian Pilot Training program he entered the U. S. Army Air Corps, "for the duration", as an instructor in both Link Trainers and Fixed Gunnery. After WWII, he returned to his job in the bone density research laboratory at Penn State. He later followed his mentor to a position at Texas Women's University in Denton, Texas. He then earned a MS degree from Southern Methodist University and did further studies at Texas A & M. He elected to not complete the PhD program because his laboratory team would have been broken up in his absence and he did not want to lose them. He had become a research professor at TWU, participating in the NASA Astronaut

research and was on board aircraft carriers to evaluate the effects of weightlessness on bone density when the Gemini astronauts were recovered. He developed the basics of the techniques being used in bone density evaluations today.

In 1977, after TWU had abandoned the idea of adding a School of Medicine, George decided it was time to retire and move to the Big Bend of Texas. There he bought a couple of sections of desert and developed Taurus Mesa Air Ranch, consisting of three runways, in addition to another one leading to his self-built adobe house.

As an FAA Designated Flight Examiner, and by his count, he issued over 2400 pilot licenses. He was the flight instructor to hundreds of students, many of whom went on to earn their living as commercial pilots, and he re-certified countless others over his long flight career. From Alpine he helped conduct research on west Texas wildlife with tracking telemetry from his own small aircraft. His adventures were the basis of a book by author Alan Tennant, On the Wing. He was Past National President of the OX5 Pioneers, originally a club of individuals who maintained or flew planes of the WWI era that were powered by OX5 engines. He was serving as secretary and newsletter writer for the Texas Wing of OX5.

He accumulated more than 23,000 flight hours and in recognition of having a "clean record" of more than fifty years with the FAA, he was honored with the FAA Master Pilot Award in 2005.

He is survived by his sister, Irene Vose Robertson of Inverness, Florida and nephews, John (Barbara) Robertson of Skaneateles, New York, and Kenneth (Carole) Robertson of Valley View, Texas, and grand nephews, Scott Robertson, Jason Robertson, Jacob Robertson, Jeremy Robertson, and grand niece, Anne McKenzie and families.

As per his wishes, there were no services, but his friends expect that a "fly-in" might be scheduled to honor his memory.