



**Edward A. Skroch, Sr.**

1900-1974

Edward Skroch was born in Courtney, ND. His lifelong involvement with aviation began in 1928 when he soloed and earned his Student Pilot Certificate at the Minot Airport. He earned a Transport Pilot rating in 1932, an Engine Mechanics License in 1933, and in 1940, he became a CAA Designated Flight Examiner.

Ed founded Minot Airways and provided charter and air ambulance service, emergency food and medicine drops to snowbound small communities and farm families. He contracted with the North Dakota State Game and Fish Department to do aerial seeding of grass and sweet clover over abandoned strip mining areas. Ed also conducted predator control and game surveys.

Mr. Skroch was the Minot Airport manager from 1935-38.

Ed moved to Grand Forks, ND in 1938 and became a flight instructor and flight examiner in a fledgling CAA aviation program at the University of North Dakota.

In 1941, he and Harry Faleide, another UND flight instructor, moved to Fargo and established the Fargo Flying School, a government and civilian World War II flight training program.

Founded in 1945, Skroch Flying Service of Fargo provided charter, sales, maintenance instruction and aerial application services.

Ed became a CAA Designate Maintenance Inspector in 1946 and received an Air Charter certification. He also began offering post WWII GI Bill flight training in Fargo and founded the Bismarck Flying School.

In partnership with Ralph Yoder, an ambulance company owner in Fargo, the Yoder-Skroch Air Ambulance Service was formed, which was the first air ambulance service to a large area of Eastern North Dakota and Western Minnesota.

Ed is credited with many innovations that increased safety and improved the performance of small aircraft. Among them were a simplified aircraft snow ski, ice detectors, and an innovative aerial seeding hopper and dispenser.

Mr. Skroch was actively involved in Skroch Flying Service until 1972 when it was sold to his son, Edward Skroch, Jr.

During his long career, Skroch logged over 30,000 hours and trained over 500 students, many of them going on to pursue notable careers in aviation.

Entrepreneurs like Ed led the way in the North Dakota's aviation industry.