



SANTA BARBARA

YACHT CLUB

Earle Ovington, 1922

1879-1936

A graduate of MIT, Earle first went to work for Thomas Edison! Later, pursuing aviation, Earle was one of the great pioneer names in American aviation and in 1911 became the first U. S. Air Mail pilot. He moved to Santa Barbara in 1920, became the town's first aviator and launched its first municipal, privately owned airport (roughly the 11th fairway at the municipal golf course paralleling McCaw Avenue.) Here on Earle's airstrip landed the aviation superstars of the era: Charles Lindberg, Jimmy Doolittle, and Amelia Earhart. (The Santa Barbara Municipal Airport in Goleta is named Earle Ovington Terminal in his honor.) When not up in the air, Earle was out to sea – after he was elected commodore of the Yacht Club, Earle was elected rear admiral of the Southern California Yachting Association.