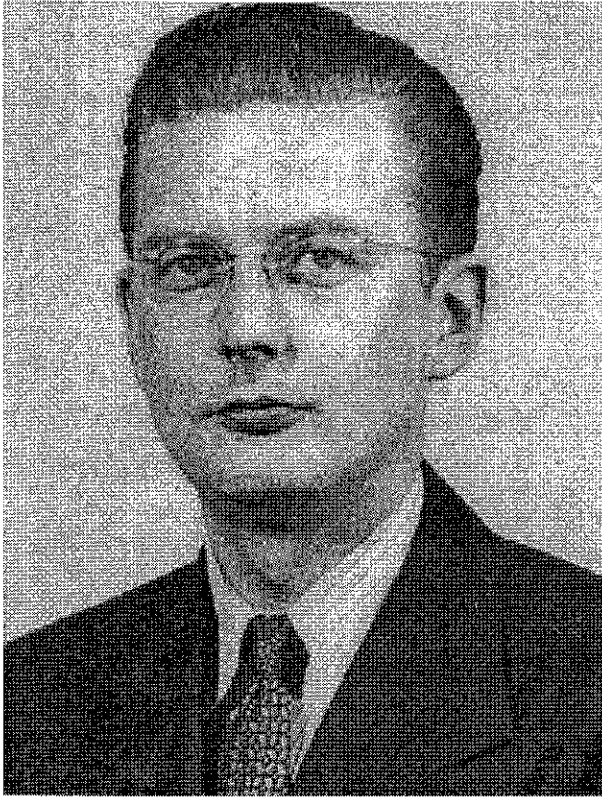


AVIATION WALL OF HONOR



Rudolf L. "Rudy" Thoren Flight Test Engineer Lockheed Corp. 1938-1963

Rudy Thoren was born in Negaunee on April 12, 1912; the third son of Judge Theodore A. Thoren and Ellen Erickson Thoren. He attended the Negaunee Public Schools and in his senior year was a member of Negaunee's State of Michigan High School Class B Basketball Championship team.

He was a charter member of the Negaunee Glider Club, which built a Zogling primary glider. This was launched by towing it off the ice of Teal Lake with a Model A. Ford.

Later, a Harley 74 cubic inch motorcycle engine and propeller were mounted to make an ultra-light airplane. This was flown at the current location of Sawyer International Airport.

With his brothers Ted and Rolly, they designed and operated a propeller-driven snow sled on the ice of Teal Lake and the snow covered streets and roads of Negaunee and Ishpeming.

Rudy attended Northern State Teachers College in Marquette for two years before transferring to the University of Michigan where he acquired Bachelor of Science degrees in Aeronautical and Mechanical Engineering.

Joining Lockheed in 1938 as a flight test engineer, he tested many types of airplanes including the early Electras, Hudson Bombers, Lodestars, P-38's, and Constellations. He was

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known as an engineer who habitually went along as a crewmember on first flights of new aircraft.

As a pilot, he had more than 5,000 flight hours and maintained his pilot's license even after becoming Director of Engineering for the California company in 1963.

Rudy died in 1969 and was survived by his children, Bobby and Jody, now living in Burbank, California.

T.J. Mudge, Oct. 2004