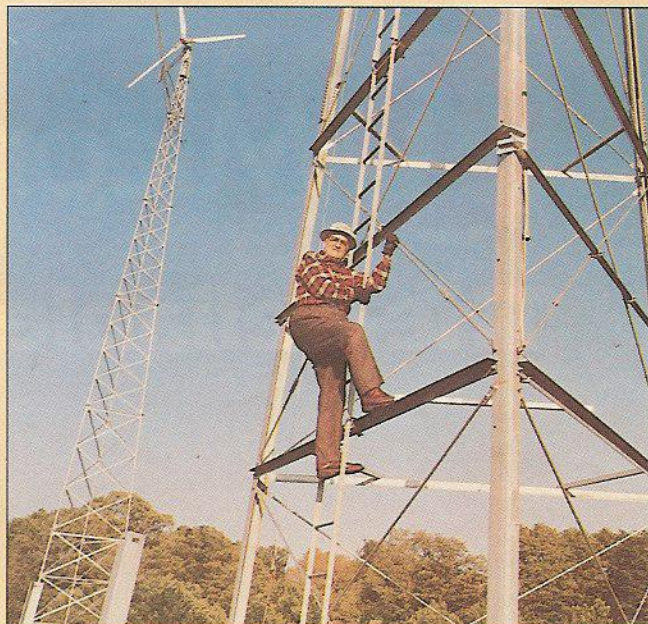
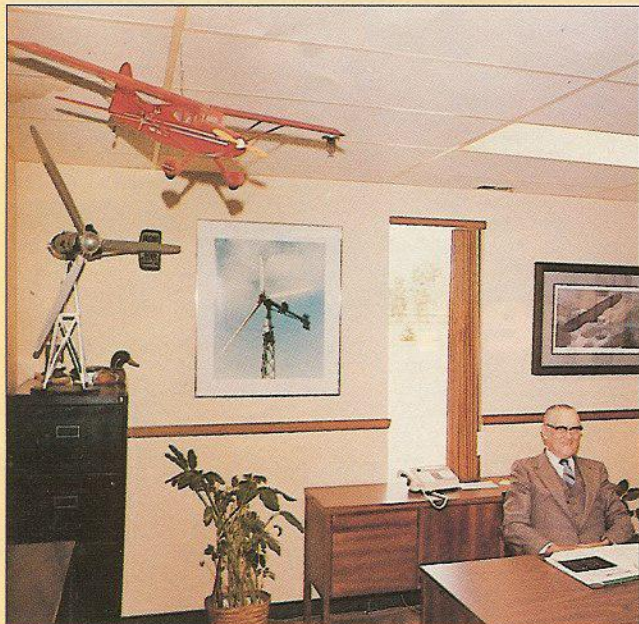


# Marcellus Jacobs:



Marcellus "M.L." Jacobs, wind pioneer and founder of the Jacobs Wind Electric Co., died on July 15, 1985 after an automobile accident. He was active to the end of his life. At left, M.L. posed for a photo in his office, surrounded by mementos of his long career, just a week before the accident. In that same week he climbed a wind tower (right) with one of his generators on it. He often said, "You can't learn the wind business while on the ground." (photos courtesy of Paul Jacobs).

Wind pioneer and inventor Marcellus "M.L." Jacobs died on July 15, 1985 as a result of internal injuries suffered in an automobile accident in Minneapolis, Minnesota on June 28th. He was 82 years old. He was widely known in the field and his career in wind power spanned some 63 years.

By: Donald Marier

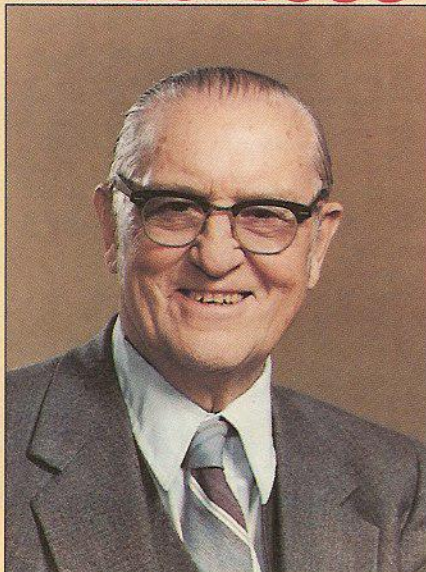
Jacobs and his late brother Joe built their first wind generator on the family ranch near Wolf Point, Montana in 1922. They moved the Jacobs Company to Minneapolis in 1930 where they produced their famous 1.8 kW, 2.5 kW, and 3.0 kW Jacobs wind generators. Those units were sold to thousands of farmers and ranchers in the U.S. and around the world. The system, which had a three-bladed, variable-pitch rotor with Sitka Spruce blades and a direct-drive generator, became well known for its ruggedness.

Jacobs was most proud of the turbine which Admiral Byrd took on his expedition to Antarctica in 1933 and which was still in operable condition twenty two years later—even though the snow pack covered the tower to within several feet of the blades.

In addition to wind systems, he sold Jacobs freezers and other 32-volt appliances. In the 1950's, he gave away Jacobs freezers to contestants on the "Truth or Consequences" and "Queen For A Day" television shows as a promotion.

In 1960, the factory was shut down, a victim of the spread of rural electrification and declining electricity prices. Jacobs then moved to Florida where he developed the Island Park housing subdivision

## 1903-1985



south of Fort Meyers and worked on various marine patents.

By the mid 1970s, interest in wind power was picking up again, and Jacobs began developing a modern version of his wind turbine, keeping the three-bladed, variable pitch rotor design intact. In 1972, Jacobs, along with his son Paul, revived the company as Jacobs Wind

Electric Company. Computer manufacturer Control Data Corp. of Minneapolis subsequently became a partner in the company and a manufacturing facility was started in Plymouth, Minnesota in 1980.

In 1984, the company acquired Renewable Energy Ventures Inc. of Encino, Calif., a windfarm developer, and, in 1985, the company purchased Dyna Technology Inc. of LeCenter, Minnesota, the manufacturer of WINCO wind turbines and engine generator sets. The company was recently re-named Earth Energy Systems Inc., although the Jacobs name has been kept on its wind products. At the time of his death, while no longer active in the day-to-day operations of the company, Jacobs continued to consult to the corporation.

Jacobs held over 30 patents on wind systems; pipeline cathodic protection plants; railway signal plants; rotary timber saws, diesel engines, World War II degassing engines for the Navy; and a number of others. He was a charter member of the National Association of Corrosion Engineers, a charter member of the American Wind Energy Association, and a member of two aviation pioneer groups, the OX5 group in the U.S. and the Alberto Santos-Dumont Foundation in Brazil.