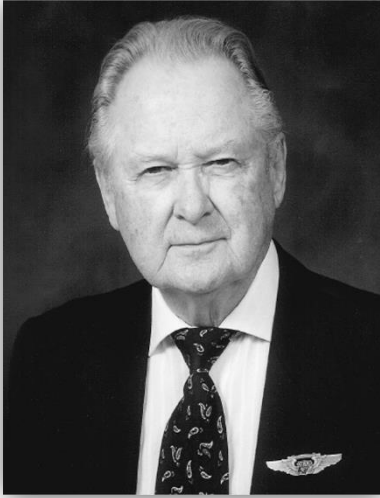


# NORTH DAKOTA AVIATION HALL OF FAME

**Vincent S. Buraas**

**Inducted: 2000**



Vincent Buraas, a native of Northwood, ND, began his aviation career working for Douglas Aircraft Company in Chicago as a manufacturing design engineer for the C-54 cargo plane. He served one year in the US Navy during WWII.

In 1940, Vince Buraas began earning many ratings over the years. He purchased his first aircraft, an Aeronca, in 1941. He established Vince Field as the first airport in Northwood Township in 1946. He also organized the Vincent School of Aeronautics in 1947 and operated it for forty years.

In 1947, Vince began operating an aerial crop spraying service. By 1960 he was operating in six states. He was an original member of the Half A Hundred Club (100/2) whose members are the fifty largest ag operators in the USA. He was the first to have the Navy TBM modified and approved for crop spraying in North Dakota. The TBMs were also used for fighting forest fires in Minnesota.

Vince Buraas was an innovator and developed many new ways to use emerging technology. He was the first aerial applicator to use chemicals to effectively control grain aphids and barley thrips in the 1950s. He also was the first to use infrared aerial photography to detect blight in pinto beans and for other crop diseases that could be treated with chemicals in the early 1970s.

Over the years he worked closely with North Dakota State University in many ag research projects and continued to train pilots, giving dual flight instruction in tail dragger aircraft and biannual flight reviews.