

CROSSON BRINGS BODIES OF ROGERS AND POST TO FAIRBANKS ON WAY HOME

Blast Followed Plane Fall, Eskimo Witnesses Declare

"She Blew Up," Is Terse Description of Mishap, Told in Detail in Latest Report.

By the Associated Press.

A graphic description of how Will Rogers and Wiley Post met their death was wirelessed to the War Department today by Staff Sergt. Stanley Morgan, in charge of the Army's radio station at that outpost of civilization.

The story, obtained from awe-struck Eskimos who saw the accident, follows:

"At 10 p.m. last night (Thursday) attracted by group of excited natives on beach. Walking down, discovered one native all out of breath gasping out in pidgin English a strange tale of 'airplane, she blew up.' "After repeated questioning learned

this native witnessed crash of an airplane at his sealing camp some 15 miles south of Barrow and had run the entire distance to summon aid.

One Man Had "Rag on Eye."

"Native claimed plane, flying very low, suddenly appeared from the south, apparently sighting tents. Plane then circled several times and finally settled down on small river near camp, two men climbed out, one wearing 'rag on sore eye,' and other 'big man with boots.'

"The big man then called native to water's edge and asked direction and distance to Point Barrow. Direction given, men then climbed back (SEE BLAST, Page 3.)

500-Mile Lap Flown by Veteran.

THRONG SEES MERCY PLANE

Ship's Wreckage Holds Secret of Crash.

LATE BULLETIN.

FAIRBANKS, Alaska, August 17 (AP).—Unwearing in his last acts of aid to his friends, Will Rogers and Wiley Post, Pilot Joe Crosson said shortly after arriving from Point Barrow, Alaska, that he expected to take off later today for Juneau with their bodies.

"I expect to fly them to Juneau, and later to California," said the ace Pacific Alaska Airways pilot, a close friend and companion of the two in their recent days in Alaska.

(Copyright, 1935, by the Associated Press.)

FAIRBANKS, Alaska, August 17.—The first lap of his sorrowful mission ended, Pilot Joe Crosson brought his plane with the bodies of Will Rogers and Wiley Post to Fairbanks at 7:35 a.m. (Alaska time) (12:35 p.m. E. S. T.), today from Barrow, Alaska.

Crosson, veteran of hundreds of Alaskan flights and close friend of the two, landed his pontoon-equipped plane on the Chena River, fronting the city. He had left the bleak and barren Arctic outpost four hours and a half earlier.

The crowd lining the banks of the river, remembering it was Post's similarly pontoon-equipped plane which had crashed and brought death to the two near Barrow Thursday night, breathed relief as Crosson set the plane down on the water carefully.

He taxied to a landing. Members of a Fairbanks mortuary staff took the broken bodies of the two men from the plane away to their establishment.

Beach Greets Plane.

Rex Beach, the author, shocked and saddened by the deaths of the two men with whom he had spent a joyful evening last week on their arrival at Juneau, was among the notables who greeted the arrival of Crosson's plane.

The embalming process is one that usually takes six or seven or more hours, and Crosson, weary by his two fights to Barrow in the past 20 hours, was ready for rest.

Consequently, officials did not know just when the next part of the trip taking the bodies back to the United States would begin. Crosson, who had been the almost constant companion of Post and Rogers in Alaska, was accompanied by Robert Gleason, radio operator for the Pan-American Airways here.

By the Associated Press.

POINT BARROW, Alaska, August 17.—Wrapped in snow-white linen, the bodies of Will Rogers and Wiley Post started for home today in a plane piloted by Joe Crosson, veteran Northland pilot. Crosson took off for Fairbanks, five hours southward across the Endicott Mountains at 3 a.m. Pacific standard time (6 a.m. Eastern standard time).

Carefully laid away in the cabin were the bodies of the two international figures, who were crushed to death Thursday when their airplane nosed over shortly after a takeoff from Refuge Bay, 15 miles south of here.

Fairbanks was the first stop en route to Seattle, where Mrs. Post was hurrying from Maysville, Okla., the home of Wiley's parents. The exact time of arrival in Seattle was not announced.

Eskimos Watch Takeoff.

A dozen white settlers and a crowd of Eskimos gathered on the desolate Arctic shore while the bodies were laid in the ship.

Fifteen miles south, on the tundra of Point Barrow, other Eskimos salvaged for their own use the scattered fragments of Post's red monoplane, in which the actor-humorist and the famous flyer plunged to their deaths in a fog on their way here from Fairbanks.

Dr. Henry W. Greist, surgeon at the Presbyterian Mission Hospital, who saw the Eskimos at work, said that shortly there would be little left save the torn tundra to mark the spot where Rogers and Post died during their "pleasure jaunt" through Alaska.

Crosson, Post's Alaskan friend and a navigator, too, and Robert Gleason, a radio operator, flew over the Endi-

(See CRASH, Page 3.)

CARDINALS DEFEAT GIANTS IN 'RUBBER'

Cut Gothamites' Lead to Two Games by Capturing Series.

By the Associated Press.

NEW YORK, August 17.—The Cardinals took the fifth and "rubber" game of their important series with the league-leading Giants today, 7 to 3, with an 11-hit attack on three pitchers and reduced New York's lead to two games.

After overcoming an early lead through the efforts of Pepper Martin, the Cards jumped on Al Smith for a pair of runs in the fifth to take a lead they never lost.

Ed Heusser held the Giants in check after the first inning, but was lifted for a pinch-hitter in the eighth, after New York had scored its third run, and Dizzy Dean, who blanked the league leaders yesterday, tacked a brilliant finish on the game. Allyn Stout and Frank Gabler followed Smith on the hill.

Martin, who scored the winning run for Dizzy Friday, was the individual star of today's game as well. He scored the tying run in the third when he singled and rounded the sacks on a steal and two Giant errors; drove in a run with a fly in the fifth and tallied again in the seventh after being hit by a pitched ball.

Heusser went out for a pinch-hitter and in the eighth Dean took up the pitching burden. He bore down and retired five Giants in order. Then with two out in the ninth Koehig batted for Gabler and doubled and Danning beat out an infield single, but Joe Moore failed to come through in the "clutch" and struck out to end the game.

EIGHT PRISONERS FOUND TUNNELING UNDER WALL

Four Placed in Solitary After Plot Is Uncovered at Michigan Penitentiary.

By the Associated Press.

MICHIGAN CITY, Ind., August 17.—Discovery of a plot to tunnel beneath the walls of the State Penitentiary resulted last night in the placing of solitary confinement of four long-term convicts.

Warden Louis E. Kunkel of the penitentiary where John Dillinger, late "Public Enemy No. 1," engineered the escape of 10 of his comrades in December, 1933, confirmed the escape attempt.

He said eight men were believed to have been involved and that they had succeeded in excavating a tunnel 36 feet long and 18 inches in diameter. He said had they gone 15 feet further the convicts would have dug beyond the prison wall.

GUFFEY BILL KEY CLAUSE APPROVED

House Holds Mining of Coal Has "Direct Effect" on Interstate Commerce.

By the Associated Press.

The key section of the Guffey coal stabilization bill, declaring that the mining of coal has a "direct effect" on interstate commerce, was approved today by the House.

Urged by President Roosevelt to place the soft coal industry under Federal control and test the Government's powers under the Constitution, the measure leans heavily on the theory that Congress has power to regulate anything directly affecting interstate commerce.

After approving the bill's statement that coal mining does have such an effect, the House considered various amendments under an agreement to finish action on them today, but to postpone the vote on final passage until Monday.

On motion of Representative Mitchell, Democrat, of Tennessee, the House adopted, 67 to 26, an amendment forbidding the proposed commissioners to have close relatives on the pay roll.

The bill would create a commission to regulate wages, hours, trade prac-

(See GUFFEY BILL, Page 2.)

CUMBERLAND RESULTS

FIRST RACE—6½ furlongs.
Aella, won. 4.20 3.50 2.50
Black Dreams, second. 9.50 4.30
Arctic Land, third. 2.80

Also ran—Bromide, Cora Kay, Barney Sexton, No Mistake, Opposition.

SECOND RACE—5 furlongs.
Florsilda, won. 12.80 6.20 4.00
Irish Play, second. 5.00 3.20
Amijo, third. 3.00

Also ran—Nahallac, Loch London, Staff Officer, Tuleyries Star.

THIRD RACE—6½ furlongs.
Whiskora, won. 11.60 5.60 5.00
Toastmaster, second. 4.60 3.50
Consummation, third. 6.20

Also ran—Sambo G., Heather Lassie, Canyng, Whirry, Sandfalon.
(Daily double paid \$34.20.)

FOURTH RACE—6½ furlongs.
Grace Bunting, won. 23.10 7.90 4.50
Jakovia, second. 4.30 3.10
Clifton's Marie, third. 3.70

Also ran—Soupcon, Wise Pete, Scotty Don.

FIFTH RACE—5 furlongs.
Stool Pigeon, won. 17.20 9.80 4.80
Crossing Over, second. 7.10 3.60
Take Off, third. 2.60

Also ran—Tell It, Fayette Prince, Hogarty, Bread King, Ada Wan.

SIXTH RACE—1 1-16 miles.
Porphyry, won. 5.60 4.10 3.40
Jambalaya, second. 7.10 4.70
Buntino, third. 3.30

Also ran—Doubtless, Patient Saint, Zachary, Miss Alphonso, Miss Belize.

LATE BULLETINS

Hufty Playing in Golf Tourney Final

COOPERSTOWN, N. Y. (AP).—Page Hufty of Washington, D. C., and Ernest Caldwell, Maryland State champion, squared away in the final round of the Cooperstown invitation golf tournament this afternoon, both having come victorious through the semi-finals earlier in the day. Hufty defeated Walter J. Krol, Utica star, 5 and 4. Caldwell downed Nicholas Starni of Cooperstown, 2 and 1.

Bandits Slay Wealthy Rancher

SAN JOSE, Costa Rica (AP).—Alberto Gonzalez Lahmann, wealthy rancher, was killed by masked bandits in his office in the center of the city today when he refused to give up a large sum of money. For half an hour the gunmen exchanged fire with police, but were wounded and captured.

Col. Knox Unhurt in Auto Crash

COVINGTON, Va., (AP).—Col. Frank Knox, Chicago publisher, who has been suggested as a presidential possibility, was delayed here overnight by an automobile collision en route to Charleston, W. Va., where he will speak tomorrow. Although both machines were badly damaged no one was injured, and Col. Knox and members of his party resumed their journey this morning.

Bodies Are Expected To Reach Seattle Monday, Line Says

By the Associated Press.

NEW YORK, August 17.—Pan-American Airways announced late today that the bodies of Will Rogers and Wiley Post probably would reach Seattle Monday.

Plans call for stops by the plane bringing them at White Horse, Telegraph Creek, Richmond and Prince George, Canada.

From Seattle the bodies will be flown to Los Angeles and thence to Oklahoma.

(Continued From First Page.)

into plane and taxied off to far side of river for take-off into wind.

"After short run plane slowly lifted from water to height about 50 feet, banking slightly to right, when evidently motor stalled, plane slipped off on right wing and nosed down into water, turning completely over. Native claimed dull explosion occurred and most of right wing dropped off and a film of gasoline and oil soon covered the water.

"Native, frightened by explosion, turned and ran, but soon controlled fright and returned, calling loudly to men in plane. Receiving no answer, native then made decision to come to Barrow for help.

"With completion of story we knew plane to be that of Post and Rogers and quickly assembled a crew of 14 Eskimos and departed in open whale boat powered with small gas motor. Hampered by recent ice floes and strong adverse current, took nearly three hours to reach destination.

"Dense fog with semi-darkness gave upturned plane most ghostly appearance, and our hearts chilled at thought of what we might find there.

"As we approached nearer plane we soon realized no human could possibly survive the terrific crash. The plane was but a huge mass of twisted and broken wood and metal.

Natives Took Out Rogers' Body.

"The natives by this time had managed to cut into the cabin and extricated the body of Rogers, who had apparently been well back in the cabin when the plane struck and more or less protected by the baggage carried therein.

"We soon learned we would have a difficult job freeing Post from the wreckage as the plane had struck with such terrific speed it had forced the engine well back into the cabin, pinning the body of Post securely.

"With some little difficulty we managed to tear the plane apart and eventually released the body of Post. Both bodies were then carefully laid and wrapped with eiderdown sleeping bags found in the wreckage, and then carefully placed in the boat.

"It is believed the natives felt the loss of these two great men as keenly as we and as we started our slow trip back to Barrow one of the Eskimo boys began to sign a hymn in Eskimo and soon all the voices whined in this singing and continued until our arrival at Barrow, when we silently bore the bodies from the beach to the hospital, where they were turned over to Dr. Geist, who with the kindly help of Mr. Brower prepared and dressed the bodies.

"It is doubtful if a person in this little village slept that night, all sat around the hospital with bowed heads with little or no talking."

LANSING ESTATE LARGE

WATERTOWN, N. Y., August 17 (P).—Mrs. Eleanor Foster Lansing, widow of Robert Lansing, President Wilson's wartime Secretary of State, left a gross estate of \$315,643.56, an appraisal disclosed today.

The net estate was \$294,025.03, the appraisal made by County Treasurer Oren E. Pickard showed. John Foster Dulles of New York is executor of the estate. Mrs. Lansing died August 18, 1934, at Henderson Harbor, N. Y.

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Crash

(Continued From First Page.)

cott Mountains and through fog across the tundra wastes yesterday to take the bodies back to civilization.

It was Crosson, veteran of unnumbered Alaskan flights, who bade them good-bye at Fairbanks and warned them against the hazards of the fog at Point Barrow.

The broken remains of Post and Rogers lay in a warehouse behind the Presbyterian Mission Hospital at Barrow, on the ice-strewn Arctic shore, after Dr. Geist, the mission surgeon, and Charles Brower, grizzled "King of the Arctic," prepared them for the journey home. In this same warehouse last May the bodies of 14 Eskimo victims of an influenza epidemic were laid out in plain board coffins.

Flying to Visit Brower.

Brower was the man whom Rogers said he was flying to Barrow to visit. For 51 years Brower has operated a whaling station and trading post on the lonely, northernmost tip of Alaska.

The entire populations of Juneau, capital of Alaska, where the aerial vacationers spent a night as guests of Gov. Troy; of Dawson, Y. T.; of Aklavik, on the Arctic delta of the Mackenzie River; of Fairbanks and of Anchorage had shouldered Post and Rogers around when they dropped in on their casual tour of the North.

Nome, to the westward, sorrowfully canceled arrangements for a giant reception. Rogers had said jocularly during his flight toward Alaska that he wanted to "rope a reindeer," and Nome citizens had the deer ready.

The terrific impact as Post's ship fell just after a take-off so mutilated it that it appeared doubtful the exact cause of the crash ever would be determined.

Motor's Misfire Blamed.

Eskimos with whom Post talked after landing to get directions to Point Barrow said the ship lifted 50 or 60 feet into the air and the 550-horsepower motor misfired.

The plane fell off on one wing, then ploughed nose first into the tundra. A wing struck the ground and ripped off, the pontoons tore into the earth, and the heavy motor broke from its supports and jammed back upon the flyer and his companion.

An Eskimo, breathless from 15 miles of running across the tundra, brought the first word of the wreck to Barrow.

Sergt. Morgan flashed the word by wireless to Col George E. Kumpe, in charge of the Alaska telegraph system headquarters, operated by the Signal Corps, in Seattle.

The Signal Corps notified Mrs. Post, in Ponca City, Okla., and the Rogers family, in Showhegan, Me.

Will Rogers, Jr., Flies East.

The Rogers family was stunned. Mrs. Rogers said she would start for California with her daughter, Mary Rogers, 19. Will Rogers, jr., was in California, but headed East by plane. The other son, James, already was in the East.

At Okahloma City, Harry Frederickson, oil man friend of Post, disclosed the two were planning to fly over much of the world in a carefree two-month trip. From Alaska they had intended to fly across to Siberia, down the China coast and into Russia.

Hunting and fishing apparently were uppermost in Post's mind in making his plans for the trip, which he said was to be culminated by a "tiger hunt" in Siberia, just a short hop across Bering Sea from Nome. Rogers bought a pair of trousers two sizes too big for him at Juneau, explaining he would need the extra girth if he ate all the fish Post was going to catch.

The flight was expected to be a tame one, virtually without hazards as compared with Post's aerial trail-blazing that won him fame.

Circled Globe Twice.

Twice he had flown around the world—once with the Australian, Harold Gatty, as navigator—to records that still stand; at Chicago and at Bartlesville, Okla., he made dan-

MRS. ROGERS AWAITS SON IN NEW YORK

Party Arrives by Auto After
Leaving Train to Avoid
Crowd at Station.

By the Associated Press.

NEW YORK, August 17.—Mrs. Will Rogers and her daughter Mary arrived in New York today after a hurried trip from Maine, en route to their California home to lay to rest the body of their husband and father.

With Dorothy Stone, daughter of the actor, Fred Stone, intimate of the dead comedian, the Rogers' motored into the city from Stamford, where they left the train which had brought them from Oakland, Me.

Here, in New York or a suburb, they went into seclusion, avoiding the public gaze and—friends said—hiding their grief even from persons closest to them.

They will await the arrival of the eldest son of the philosopher-humorist, Will, jr., arriving by airplane tonight from the West Coast, before completing plans for the trip to Santa Monica. Will, jr., is scheduled to arrive at Newark Airport at 7:18 p.m., standard time.

ALASKA STUNNED BY THE TRAGEDY

Two Had Won Hearts of Territory, Says Rex Beach.

BY REX BEACH.

(Copyright, 1935, by the Associated Press.)

FAIRBANKS, Alaska, August 17.—Alaska is stunned by the catastrophe at Point Barrow.

It feels the disaster more keenly because it has for the last week played host to Will Rogers and Wiley Post and had just become personally acquainted with both men.

Yesterday everybody in this country was smiling at Will's jokes. On every pair of lips were the names of the two famous visitors, the two newest and truest friends Alaska has made in many years.

Today there are no smiles up here. This is the blackest day Alaska has known.

Population Stricken Dumb.

When the news of the crash in the chill fog of the Arctic tundra was made known yesterday the entire population of the territory was stricken dumb. I have never seen a people so completely stunned.

We know no more about the details than you know as yet, for the United States Signal Corps, which affords the only radio communication in the North, there being no telegraph or cable, has broadcast to the world all there is to know.

Will and Wiley started for Point Barrow, ran into a fog, were forced to land and ascertain from natives their whereabouts. When they took off the engine misfired and the ship nosed into a death dive. The account is almost as short, as stark, as shocking as the tragedy itself.

But Alaskans were at first incredulous. This thing might happen—to other flyers, said they—but not to Wiley and Will. Then, as the messages continued to come in, Alaska bowed her head and wept.

Crash Blamed on Weather.

"Weather did it," the old-timers say.

They shake their heads and assert: "Point Barrow and those Arctic barrens aren't Alaska—they're 1,400 miles North and the climate is tricky. Will and Wiley should have been careful."

But Wiley was careful. Will told me in Juneau that he was the most careful pilot he had ever flown with, almost too careful it seemed to Will. And he was skillful, too. Amelia Earhart had told Will that she considered Post the finest flyer alive.

What actually went wrong 50 feet above that shallow tundra river may never be known. But this much is absolutely certain in the minds of every air-minded Alaskan . . . it was too much for human skill and quick thinking to cope with.

I was in Kechikan last week when that plane roared north through the murk and drizzle above us and over the local radio I heard that Will Rogers and Wiley Post were in it.

The next night I walked in on them at Juneau while they were having dinner with Joe Crosson, ace pilot of the Pacific-Alaska airways.

Joe's the fellow who always went after Wiley up here when he got in trouble.

Evasive on Plans.

Will explained that both times Wiley flew around the world he sat down in Alaska and Joe had to give him a hand.

"What are your plans?" I asked them.

Wiley grinned and said nothing.

Will confessed:

"We haven't any. We're just on a vacation. We want to see Dawson and Fairbanks and those farmer colonists (at Matanuska), of course, and we'd like to see the Mackenzie River, too. We might even hop across to Siberia and go home that way.

"When Wiley was flying around the world those Russians laid out his course and told him exactly where to head in at and made him stick to it. Now they have given him permission to fly anywhere and stop anywhere as long as he wants. We have the maps and it would make a swell trip to go home by way of Iceland and Greenland. The longest water jump is only 1,000 miles."

Post Goes to Sleep.

We gabbed there until midnight, until Wiley went to sleep with his head on his arms.

"He never has a word to say," Will told me. "I do the talking for the team and it works out fine."

This was Will's first trip to Alaska. He loved it and he loved the people. Juneau went wild about him, as did the several other towns he and Wiley visited.

In Thursday night's local paper was an article quoting him as saying that he proposed to come up here next Winter and hole up with some old timers so as to really get acquainted.

Post Was Proud Of Plane Built Of "Spare Parts"

Placed Lockheed Sirius Wings on Lockheed Orion Fuselage.

By the Associated Press.

LOS ANGELES, August 17.—Although it was assembled from "spare parts," Wiley Post was proud of the low-winged monoplane which carried him and Will Rogers to death in the Arctic.

"She'll never be abused like the Winnie Mae was," Post told mechanics when the ship was completed several weeks ago in Burbank. The Winnie Mae, placed in retirement by the flyer, was the ship in which Post flew to aviation fame on two hazardous round-the-world flights.

Charles Babb, international dealer in used aircraft, disclosed that Post purchased the fuselage and wings of the new plane from him.

"Post said he wanted a wing with a large lifting surface," Babb said. "I assumed he knew what he was about and it seemed logical when he explained that he was going to put a Lockheed Sirius wing on a Lockheed Orion fuselage, saying this combination would give him greater visibility.

Post's resolve to build his own ship instead of buying a new standard plane caused considerable comment among flyers, who believed limited financial resources influenced the noted pilot in going ahead with his plans.

Joe Marriott, supervising aeronautical inspector here for the Department of Commerce, said Post's plane was operating under a restricted license.

Restricted licenses, Marriott explained, are granted for certain types of test flying, industrial flying—such as crop dusting—as distinguished from licenses to carry passengers on commercial lines.

Legacy of Wit

WILL ROGERS LEAVES
WORLD FUND OF HUMOR.

By the Associated Press.

NEW YORK, August 16.—Will Rogers left the world a rich legacy of spontaneous humor.

He expressed the hope a few years ago that his gravestone would bear this epitaph: "I joke about every prominent man of my time, but I never met a man I didn't like."

"And when you come around to my grave," he added, "you'll probably find me sitting there proudly reading it."

Some of his record "wise cracks" follow:

"The Republicans have a habit of having three bad years and one good one, and the good one always happens election year."

"Argentina exports wheat, meat and gigolos, and the United States puts a tariff on the wrong two."

Describing the London Naval Conference of 1930:

"We stood through 1 speech, sat through 8 slept through 12, and in three solid hours of compliments not a rowboat was sunk."

He was strongly opposed to formal attire and at a dinner in Port of Spain, Trinidad, he expressed his opinion of "boiled shirts." Shortly afterward, the Chinese Minister to Cuba, who had disappeared during the discourse, returned wearing a silk suit.

Commenting on Andrew Mellon's appointment as Ambassador to the Court of St. James: "Why, a man with as much money as Andy could be popular anywhere."

Discussing world opinion: "If the weather isn't right, we did it. If there are too many debts, it is our fault. If the Prince of Wales doesn't marry, we are to blame."

Senator Pat Harrison of Mississippi relates that he warned Rogers of the dangers of flying. "He merely told me," the Senator said, "that I would be killed some time trying to hit a golf ball."

When someone asked him what he did on a trip to several cities he replied:

"Just blathered."

"What's blathering?" he was asked.

"You don't know what blathering is? Why, that's what we are doing right now."

That brought a grin to every sourdough.

That was Thursday night.

Yesterday morning Joe Crosson flew again to succor his friend Wiley.

On every side last night I heard the same words: "It just can't be so. Why it was only yesterday we were all laughing and joking together."

It seems a long time ago.

Alaska is waiting for Joe Crosson's ship and the country is in tears.