

WEATHER MAIN HAZARD FACING AVIATION LINES

Close Inspection Eliminates Most of Dangers Due to Plane Defects.

This is the second of a series on the safety of travel by air.

BY ERNIE PYLE
Scripps-Howard Aviation Editor

WASHINGTON, March 2.—It can be said that transport aviation practically has whipped every hazard except the weather.

In the last fourteen months, only two fatal crashes on the airlines have been due to causes other than the weather.

Two crashes out of 48,000,000 miles of flying is not abnormal. It approaches the safety record of other forms of transportation.

Close government and airline inspection of planes and pilots practically has eliminated such hazards as structural failure and fire. There is not much left but the weather.

And the weather, in the last fourteen months, caused seventeen of the country's fatal airline crashes.

Regulation Is Strict

Every time a death occurs on the airplanes, there is public demand for stricter government regulation of flying. But, in fact, government regulation is already very strict.

Control over interstate air commerce is vested in the commerce department, by act of congress. This control falls into two phases: (1) Free aids to air navigation, such as lighted airways, emergency fields, radio beacons and weather stations; (2) Regulation of conditions under which all transport planes fly.

It is against weather, either directly or indirectly, that the government has thrown most of its force in helping make scheduled flying safe.

To list a few of these safety precautions:

There are 19,500 miles of lighted airways in this country.

On airways are nearly 2,000 powerful beacon lights to guide the fliers.

There are 404 lighted emergency fields, strung out so that a plane never is more than 15 minutes from one.

Radio Adds to Safety

There are sixty radio beacons, each with a range of some 200 miles, constantly sending out radio waves to keep the fliers on their course.

There are sixty radio stations sending out weather reports every few minutes.

There are hundreds of weather observers scattered over the country, and 15,000 miles of teletype over which these weather reports are transmitted instantly to the sixty radio centers for broadcast to the pilots.

There are seventy-five inspectors constantly watching the operations of all the airlines, and riding the planes back and forth across every state in the union.

The airlines themselves have set up a great safety network. They have built radio stations of their own, and equipped their planes with two-way radio sets.

Experts Pilot Planes

They have built fine airports, hired and trained 700 of the best pilots in the country. They maintain elaborate mechanical and inspection forces to keep their planes in perfect condition.

And still, with all this, there were seventeen fatal crashes caused by bad weather on the airlines since the beginning of 1931.

There may have been instances where the crash was caused by an unwise pushing ahead into thick weather. But many of them were less deliberate. Weather reporting is not yet perfect. The flying judgment of the best pilot in the world is not infallible.

There may be some instances of actual criminal negligence, or inexcusable bad judgment. The federal government, obviously, has not enough money or men to put an inspector on every plane that flies.

Enforcement of regulations is difficult. Stricter enforcement can be accomplished only when all the states pass aeronautical laws uniform with the federal act.

Then actual enforcement can be handled by state officials. There then can be enough inspectors to keep a closer watch for negligence and unsafe practices on airlines.

Next: Strict Regulations Guard Travelers by Air.

Schedule Is Revised

Revised schedule on eastbound passenger plane to Transcontinental & Western Air, Inc., effective today has been announced by R. B. Barratt, local traffic representative.

Eastbound planes will leave Kansas City at 9 a. m., reach St. Louis at 11:05 a. m.; arrive Indianapolis at 1:02 and depart at 1:12; arrive at Columbus, O., at 2:43 p. m., and arrive at Newark, N. J., at 8:42 p. m. eastern standard time.

Westbound planes will continue to depart from Indianapolis at 3:49 p. m.

Three hours elapsed time will be cut from the mail and express plane schedules between New York and Los Angeles, the planes making the cross-country flight in twenty-two hours, forty-two minutes.

Fliers Seek China Duty

By United Press

WASHINGTON, March 2.—Washington is being visited by dozens of aviators who are hoping to sign for duty in China.

The applications show a surprising amount of unemployment among flying men. Many of them own planes but nothing else.

"Could you let me tie my plane down outside the hangar for the night?" one pilot asked an official at Washington-Hoover airport. "I haven't a penny."

Another wanted to pawn his parachute.

An official asked one of the pilots how he managed to buy gasoline.

"I don't," the flier replied, "I fly along until I spot a prosperous bunch of farm buildings and pick out a tractor in the field. Then I land there. I give the farmer a hard luck story, he drains his tractor and his extra tanks, fills me up, I take him for a little hop, and I'm on my way again."

Lightning Strikes Twice



Mrs. Alice Fowle (left) and Miss Margaret Jesse

Being robbed by the same bandit twice in one afternoon was the unusual experience of Mrs. Alice Fowle, 34, of 2358 North Illinois street, clerk for the Nancy Hart Candy Shops, Inc.

In the first robbery, Mrs. Fowle was at work in a shop at 102 Monument Circle with Miss Margaret Jesse, 21, of 412 North Alabama street, another victim of the bandit.

Four hours later, Mrs. Fowle faced the same gunman while at work in another shop at 23 East Market street, following which the bandit suspect was captured and confessed the crimes, police say.

EX-POSTAL VETERAN CLAIMED BY DEATH

JOBS, NOT CHARITY, PLANNER HOUSE PLEA

Housewives Urged to Hire Trained and Efficient Employees.

More jobs instead of charity. That is the request of Mrs. Myrtle Roper, a young Negro woman who is supervisor of Planner House employment bureau. It is Mrs. Roper's task to find jobs for the rows of workers waiting at the Planner House, 302 North West street, hoping for telephone calls to homes that need workers by the day. Some days there aren't enough calls to go around, and the women, who work for \$2 a day and carfare, need help, dependent on charity for food.

"If the curtains are dirty, that's a day's work for somebody. If the windows need washing, that's another day's work. If the woodwork gets the attention that it needs; if cleaning of closets, floors, rugs or laundry of the thousand other jobs that accumulate around a home is done now, there will be less need for charity," says Mrs. Roper.

Planner House is the only employment bureau here which trains its own workers before sending them out. The laundry school had an attendance last year of 3,646 women. In the last two years ninety-nine certificates of graduation have been issued.

TEACHERS CHOSEN TO DIRECT LATIN CONTEST

State Competition Will Be Held for Ninth Time.

By Times Staffer

BLOOMINGTON, Ind., March 2.—List of high school teachers serving as county chairmen for the state high school Latin contest was announced here today by Mrs. Adele K. Bittner of the Indiana university extension division. The university's extension division is in charge of the contest, being held this year for the ninth time.

The county chairmen will conduct local and county meets. The district meets will be held March 26 and the state meet will be April 8 at Indiana university, in connection with the annual conference for Latin teachers.

The contest is being divided into four divisions and a gold, a silver and a bronze medal will be awarded to the contestants ranking first, second and third in each division in the state contest.

URGES G. O. P. LOYALTY

State Chairman Tells Ex-Soldiers Democrats Are in Minority.

Word of the death at Kansas City, Kan., Tuesday of Emmett B. Moore, a native of Hendricks county and cashier of the Chicago & Alton railroad in the Kansas city, was received by relatives here.

FARM WOMEN TO MEET

Annual Conference Will Open Here on Thursday.

More than 500 delegates and visitors are expected to attend the second annual Indiana Farm Bureau Women's Conference, to be held here Thursday and Friday.

Edward A. O'Neal and M. S. Winder, president and secretary, respectively, of the American Farm Bureau, are scheduled to speak at the session. W. H. Settle, Indiana Farm Bureau head, will welcome

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