

# KIN OF MEDFORD LADY WAS FIRST IN GLIDER FLIGHT

## Credit To German Recalls Exploits Of John Montgomery In 1884—Feats Set Forth In Magazine.

Recent publication by the Mail Tribune of a "filler" paragraph to the effect that Otto Lilienthal, a German, made the first successful flight in a man-carrying glider in 1891, brings an interesting denial of the assertion from Mrs. Charles R. Smith of 408 North Holly street, Medford.

Mrs. Smith points out that her first cousin, John J. Montgomery, M.S., Ph.D., piloted his homemade monoplane type glider 600 feet down a hillside near Oyster, Cal., in 1884, seven years before Lilienthal's flight and 20 years before the Wrights were giving the border of a great invention.

The story of Montgomery's experiments in aviation was set forth in the October, 1930 number of Popular Science magazine. In March, 1934, Montgomery's memory was honored in services at Santa Clara university where he served as an instructor in the physics department and was known as the "colourful of the skies."

### First On Wings

In relating Montgomery's exploits the Popular Science story declares he was "the first man in the world to ride on wings. Yet, no monument has ever been erected to him and today, not one of the 1,621 airports in the United States is named in his honor. His years of pioneering have almost been forgotten."

Montgomery, the story continues, was born February 15, 1858, at Yuba City, Cal. His father was assistant U. S. attorney general under President Cleveland. From his early childhood he was interested in the air. He saw his first balloon when he was 11 and immediately plunged into the construction of paper hot-air balloons. He made dozens of them, of all sizes. The end of his balloon flying was reached when the family saw one of his hot-air bags float away with his father's best hatchet dangling below for ballast.

In later youth he captured many hawks, geese, sea gulls and pelicans and studied their wings.

Abandons "Flappers"  
In 1883 he built his first full-sized machine, a craft with flapping wings. It proved a total failure. Two other wing-flappers followed in quick succession and convinced him he was on the wrong trail.

Next year Montgomery constructed the historic "gull" monoplane. Its single curved wing, 20 feet long by four and one-half wide, was covered with waxed silk. A movable tail guided it up and down. The operator, sitting on a little seat below, maintained sidewise balance by swinging his body toward the high wing when the machine was struck by a gust. Main supporting surface arched downward like the wings of a seagull.

The craft was ready by the middle of March. On the morning of March 17, 1884, Montgomery with his brother James took the glider on a bay rack to a hilltop near their home south of the valley of the Otay. John Montgomery seated himself in the contraption while his brother towed it by means of a rope. The glider rose beautifully in the air, passed over James and traveled something like 600 feet.

Other Hoops Made  
Several other shorter flights were made the same morning, the experiments ending when James accidentally held the rope too long and the glider crashed on one wing and was damaged.

Later in the same year, Montgomery, accompanied by Charles Burrows, made a number of 200 and 300 foot glides.

Weight of the first glider was only 30 pounds and that of its pilot 130. About this time Montgomery tried to build an engine but his homemade castings were unsatisfactory. Once he tried to rig up a propeller he could turn by hand but he found that maintaining balance required all his attention in the air.

### Glider For Balloon

Montgomery's next notable achievement was the construction of a glider which was taken aloft by a balloon on April 29, 1903. Daniel Maloney, a professional parachute jumper, was employed to ride the craft.

Fifteen thousand people gathered at the little mission town of Santa Clara to witness the exhibition. The balloon with the glider swaying beneath was released and ascended to a height of 4,000 feet when the aeronaut cut loose from the huge gas bag and glided about for some time, finally coming gently to earth.

### Exploit Halted

Newspapers of the country hailed the exploit and Alexander Graham Bell maintained that "all subsequent attempts in aviation must begin with the Montgomery machine."

In order to raise money for further experiments, Montgomery used several balloons and gliders in giving exhibitions at country fairs. The air pioneer suffered a setback in the great earthquake of April 18, 1906 when his workshop and machines were destroyed. It was not until 1911 that he was again in position to resume his work, with sufficient backing to build a powered machine.

On October 31, of that year, he took off on his last flight. He was testing a new glider at Evergreen, Cal. Fifty-four successful hops had been made. In a light breeze above a gentle slope, the craft sailed upward to a height of 30 feet when his assistants saw Montgomery's hands drop from the controls and his body fall limp. It is believed he was attacked by vertigo, to which he was subject.

The unplotted machine, according to the Popular Science magazine narrative, crashed on one wing and Montgomery was hurled through the guy wires, landing on his head. He passed away three hours later.

## UNREQUITED LOVE TOLD IN SUICIDE'S LETTERS

LOS ANGELES, April 28.—(AP)—Thwarted ambitions and unrequited love caused Pasqual Fabris, 36-year-old violinist, to end his life by monoxide gas poisoning.

Fabris, member of Raymond Paige's orchestra which plays for a nationwide (Hollywood Hotel) radio program, left suicide notes in which he said Francis Langford, screen actress, and star of the program, refused to marry him and go to Samoa where he hoped to write his "system of philosophy."

Fabris' body was found yesterday in his automobile, a hose extending from the exhaust to his mouth.

Fulfillment of the wishes of those who commission us has been the one thing by which we believe we have gained the confidence of the community.

LADY ATTENDANT

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Funeral Home  
John A. & Frank Perl  
Ambulance Service  
Phone 47

# CITY POLICE NAB YOUNG BURGLAR IN BROWN'S PLACE

(Continued from Page One.)

and other city policemen and Ed Brown, owner of the establishment. With Officers Peck and Reinking covering the back of the Building, Fichter, and Officers Claus and Cave entered the building through a side door unlocked by Brown, and Rossiter was arrested while hiding in a woman's closet.

Rossiter, according to city police, gained entrance to the establishment by breaking out a window in the alley. When arrested he had a bag full of miscellaneous articles taken from the showcases including bill folds, cigarettes, cigarette holders, watches, harmonica, playing cards, gum, a pair of Elka teeth, razor blades, razors, tooth paste, a flashlight and a .38 special revolver. Also on his person was found \$3 in dimes, \$2.30 in nickels, \$2.40 in five-cent trade checks and 80 cents in small change, the police reported.

In a statement to city police after his arrest, the youth said that he first made up his mind to rob the store about 6 p. m. yesterday. He said that he attended a movie last night and afterwards returned to the billiard parlor and stayed until closing time. After breaking through the rear window, Rossiter stated that he took articles out of the showcases and put them in a bag. He then attempted to open the safe, he told city police, and managed to get the outer door open by twisting the dial until he heard "them click. He

couldn't open the inner door, he told the authorities.

Rossiter was paroled from the juvenile court here about a year ago to Justice of the Peace Ray Coleman of Jacksonville, after he had robbed the Coleman store, records show. He was a member of the CCG until a month ago, city police said.

His father is confined to a tuberculosis hospital in Salem and his mother lives in California, he told city police. He has been living with a Mrs. Wood at the corner of Jackson street and McAndrews road, city police stated.

# Ralph Ince Killed



Ralph Ince, of Boston, Mass., motion picture director and actor, was killed in England when an automobile in which he was riding with his wife struck an iron standard at Kensington. Mrs. Ince suffered face lacerations. (Associated Press Photo)

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# New Packing Basket Aid Tree Ripened Fruit Mart

WASHINGTON (UP)—E. D. Mallison, fruit marketing specialist of the department of agriculture's bureau of plant industry, has developed a basket which he says will bring tree-ripened fruit a step nearer big market centers.

"Tree-ripened peaches—favored by consumers because of superior flavor—are a step nearer the big marketing centers because of modifications in the shipping basket which allows the fruit to be refrigerated more quickly," Mallison said.

The basket is slatted or spaced for ventilation. The crown-shaped lid, also of open construction, allows air to pass through. Instead of a solid cushion between the lid and the fruit, Mallison devised a ring type, ventilated pad with a circular hold in the center. A slatted paper liner completes the ventilated basket.

Mallison said a series of tests he conducted at Fort Valley, Ga., showed that peaches packed in the ventilated baskets with ring pads cooled off three times faster than those packed in the old style, unventilated basket with standard pad.

In the experiment a car of peaches was loaded at an average temperature of 83 degrees Fahrenheit. Three different types of baskets were used—light, unventilated with standard pad; ventilated with standard pad, and ventilated with the new ring pad.

Thermometers placed in fruit near the center of baskets of each type were checked immediately after the car was cooled for two hours and 10 minutes. Peaches in the light, unventilated baskets cooled only to 72.4 degrees. In the ventilated baskets

# DIMINISHING FLOODS LESSEN APPREHENSION

Tension in North America's flood areas eased today as unruly rivers began slipping back into their own beds.

The Ohio river receded slowly at Pittsburgh and held at peak of 45.7 feet at Wheeling, W. Va. It was expected to rise a few feet at points downstream as it carried off the headwaters' overflow.

Discovery of Goursapar, 98 percent pure, has been reported in the Chinita mountains in the Big Bend section of Texas.



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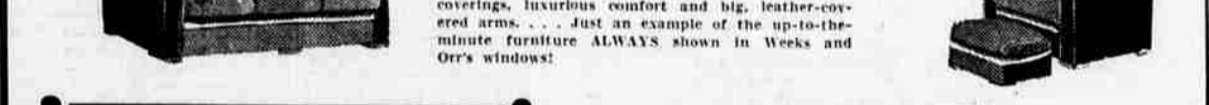
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