

Amelia Earhart Disappeared on Pacific Plane Trip 19 Years Ago

San Francisco, Calif. (UPI)—Nineteen years ago the most famous aviatrix of them all, Amelia Earhart, disappeared in the Mid-Pacific on the last lap of an epic-making world flight.

Amelia, the "Lady Lindy" of the 1930's, never was heard from again. But the speculation about her fate and that of her navigator Fred Noonan, never stopped.

Amelia would have celebrated her 58th birthday July 24 if she had survived the July 2, 1937 flight.

She racked up a whole string of firsts in flying. She was the first woman to fly the Atlantic and fly it alone. She was the first woman to fly most of the Pacific—the distance from Hawaii to California.

She was the first woman to fly across the United States, both by stages and non-stop. Twice, she established speed records, and also set a new altitude record.

Her ill-fated attempt to circle the globe began from Miami, June 1, 1937. She flew east in a two-engine monoplane called "The Electra," and made the 22,000 miles to Las, New Guinea, without major incident. The last 7,000 miles was the most difficult part of the flight, for much of it was over a route never before flown. The destination July 2 was Howland Island, a tiny, barren strip in the mid-Pacific.

Search Cost Millions

The Coast Guard cutter "Itasca" was stationed near Howland to give her radio and weather signals. At one time, the ship picked up Miss Earhart's report that her plane was circling and was unable to find land.

In the following two days Amelia Earhart's voice reportedly was heard by radio several times, and a mass air-sea rescue effort began in the area.

The third day after her disappearance a Naval radio station near Honolulu picked up what it believed was a message from the plane that said in part, "Don't hold with us much longer... above water... shut off."

Miss Earhart's husband, George Putnam, had a theory that the Electra was on a reef and the fuel used to power the radio was about gone.

Before the search was called off it included 102 American planes, 10 American ships, several Japanese aircraft, and three thousand men. The search cost the United States an estimated four million dollars.

Mother Had Theory

But the rumors about Amelia never stopped. Some of the reports were that she died in the crash; some that she landed on a Japanese-inhabited island where she was taken prisoner and later executed; one rumor was that she was alive and held by the Japanese. In 1945 this was denied officially by the Japanese government.

Amelia's mother, Mrs. Amy Otis Earhart, subscribed to the Japanese prisoner theory, and believed her daughter died in Japan on a U. S. government mission, and not in the Pacific Ocean. She advanced this theory as late as 1949 when she said Amelia had told her there were some things that were of a "secret" nature and could not be revealed.

"She landed on a tiny atoll, one of the many in that general area of the Pacific, and was picked up by a Japanese fishing boat that took her to the Marshall Islands, then under Japanese control," Mrs. Earhart said.

"There she met with an accident—an 'arranged' accident that ended her life," she added.

Mrs. Earhart said she had thought her daughter might be returned to this country during World War II in exchange for some captured Japanese general or admiral, but said she gave up hope with the end of the war.

Quotes From the News

By UNITED PRESS

Washington—President Press Secretary James C. Hagerty after telling newsmen to "wait and see" on whether President Eisenhower will make a statement in San Francisco about the vice presidency:

"Am I stalling? Yes. Do I know what will happen when we get to San Francisco? No. I'll wait and see."

Libertyville, Ill.—Democratic presidential nominee Adlai Stevenson on the charge of Republican Governor William Stratton of Illinois that he will lose Illinois and the nation by a wider margin than in 1952:

"I'm not impressed with the gentleman's views now any more than I have been in the past."

Castel Gondolfo, Italy—Pope Pius XII in a speech on the present status of cancer research:

"The present period is still one of observation and defense, without the possibility of launching against cancer the great battle, the decisive battle, universally awaited."

Vienna—Zoltan Csillard, 26, the only one of four Czech refugees who attempted to flee to Austria Sunday to make it alive, on their leap from a passenger boat into the Danube river where the three were shot by Communist police:

"A hall of bullets swept the water all around us. I swam as fast as I could without looking left or right."

Titusville, Fla.—Mrs. Ellerbe W. Carter, after delivering her ninth child unassisted:

"It's the way nature intended babies to be born and it's a wonderful experience."

Springfield, Ill.—Deposed Illinois Auditor Orville Hodge, sentenced to a long prison term for swindling the state out of over \$1 million, during cross examination at his trial:

"I've been under a terrible strain."

Boyer Reports Morse Talk Well Received At Demo Convention

Bob Boyer of Medford, chairman of the state Democratic Central committee who returned Sunday from the party's national convention in Chicago, reported that Oregon's Sen. Wayne Morse was the best-received of any speaker at the convention, excepting only Adlai Stevenson, Estes Kefauver and former-President Harry Truman.

He said that press reports and roving television shots which gave the impression that most delegates were inattentive or antagonistic entirely misrepresented the response of the delegates, most of whom were enthusiastic and attentive. The demonstration which greeted Morse when he arose to talk was the greatest accorded any speaker until the Friday sessions, Boyer stated.

National Attention

He also said that national attention definitely is focused on the Morse-McKay senatorial race, that many delegates asked him about Morse's chances, and that one Alabama delegate told him that state group for a time seriously considered naming Morse as a "favorite son" candidate for the presidency.

Boyer, in giving a previously-unreported sidelight of the convention, said he was told on good authority that the vice presidential nomination would go to Sen. John Kennedy of Massachusetts except for Sen. Albert Gore of Tennessee.

This was the situation as Boyer related it; Kefauver was ahead on the first ballot, but dropped well below Kennedy's total on the second ballot. Senator Gore obtained the floor, and was recognized by Chairman Sam Rayburn, who had the understanding that Gore was to swing the Tennessee vote, previously cast for Gore, to Kennedy—a move which was considered to be decisive.

Political "Death" Hinted

Before the balloting, however, Boyer said he learned that an influential Tennessee newspaperman talked to Gore and told him that if he had any part in depriving Tennessee of having a vice presidential candidate (Kefauver), who might become vice president or even president, he would be "dead" politically in Tennessee.

Gore, according to this story, realized the truth of what the newspaperman said, and at the last moment swung the Tennessee vote to Kefauver, a move which was decisive.

Boyer said the convention was much more orderly and serious than some might expect, with no rowdiness and little drinking.

Insurance Agency Named in Complaint

John B. Hamacher, doing business as Talent Sawmills, has filed a suit in circuit court asking \$34,770.29 damages plus court costs against Earl S. and Gilbert S. Tummy of Tummy Insurance Agency.

Hamacher is represented by Neff, Fronhmayr and Lowry law firm.

Ordered Insurance

In the suit, the plaintiff alleges that on or about March 2, 1955, he ordered insurance from the Tummy agency for \$170,000 to protect his business property, the Talent Sawmills, including a sawmill and planing mill, from loss due to fire.

He further states that on Jan. 3, 1956, he advised the agency that renovations, improvements and repairs, had increased the value of the property and that the amount of insurance should be increased. He claims that the agency agreed to undertake the procurement of an increased policy.

Fire Damages Structures

On Jan. 6, 1956, a fire destroyed and damaged the Talent Sawmills buildings and equipment to the extent of \$174,166.58, Hamacher charges. He claims that the Tummy insurance agency had not procured an increased policy at the time of the fire and that as a result of "negligent, careless, and unskillful" failure to do so, caused him to sustain a loss of \$34,770.29, which was uninsured.

Distributing Firm Files Damage Suit

H. E. Hawk of the Hawk Distributing company is asking \$3,212 damages plus \$1,000 attorney's fees in a suit against Duane Feil which has been filed recently in circuit court.

Hawk alleges that he sold Feil several sets of Breeze Safety State Bunks which were installed on log trucks and trailers owned by the defendant on or about April 16, 1956.

He charges that the defendant breached the sales contract by allowing the trucks and bunks to be taken from his possession.

John Dellenback of Van Dyke and Dellenback law firm is representing the plaintiff.

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