



IN BETTER DAYS - Francis Powers, held by the Russians after his U2 plane was downed over the Soviet Union, is shown above in better days. At left he is shown, left, with his father, Oliver, center, and his grandfather. At right he is shown with his five sisters, Joanne, Joyce, Jean, Jessica and Janica. The photo was taken after Powers' graduation from high school. (UPI Telephoto)

Powers' Father Endures Ordeal Of Son Being in Soviet Hands

By JACK V. FOX
Norton, Va. — Oliver Powers is enduring as stark an ordeal as a father could. His only son is in the hands of the Soviet military police, branded a spy and very possibly close to death before a firing squad.

Powers, 55, is facing it with dignity and with a courage that only fleetingly wanes at the desperation of his son's plight and the bitter frustration of being unable to help.

Almost every day since 30-year-old Francis Powers was brought down in his U-2 far inside Russia and the Communist charges trumpeted to the world, the father has gone to his one-man shoe repair shop in this tiny Virginia mountain town and worked at his cobbler's trade.

cost \$2.50 and it was a woman pilot in a two-seater plane.

"When he came down, he said 'Daddy, I left my heart up there.'"

Powers' voice broke and he sobbed. It was the only time he lost his composure in a conversation of more than two hours.

Worked as Miner

Powers has repaired shoes for 22 years. He worked 15 years as a coal miner but gave it up because it was too dangerous. He was in the infantry for about a year in the mid-1920s but never went outside the country.

"I would never let him go into the mines," Powers said. "And he would never work

at this trade. He just didn't like it.

"This area doesn't offer much for a young man. He wanted to go to work when he got out of high school, but I persuaded him to take a college. I talked him into taking a pre-med course and he did real well. But when he got out, he told me he just wasn't interested in being a doctor and didn't want to go on to medical school."

Powers tried to get Francis an appointment to the Coast Guard Academy. But the boy was restless, his draft board was scheduled to take him in and Francis enlisted in the Air Force on Oct. 6, 1950. After a year, he took flight training and became a fighter pilot.

Only Fighter Planes

"He never flew anything but a fighter plane," Powers said. "He told me he didn't want to be responsible for nobody but himself."

"Thinks Government blundered.

There is reason to believe that Powers knew something about what his son was doing in Turkey after leaving the Air Force in 1956 and going with Lockheed Aircraft as a "test pilot," but that is where the silence begins in talking with the father.

His anger flares at what he thinks has been government blundering in his son's case, including the abandoned story that the U-2 pilot got lost in the Turkish border after a failure of his oxygen supply.

Powers has tried to get State Department approval for a trip to Europe and Russia and made personal appeals to Premier Nikita Khrushchev as a fellow coal miner and father to let him take Francis' place.

Unquestionably Involved

But he realizes how little chance those attempts have. Closing his talk, he said he was aware his son may be executed, acknowledged that Francis was unquestionably involved in espionage.

"Some one has to pay and perhaps it must be my boy," he said slowly. "But know this. Whatever he did, he did for his country and it may turn out to be one of the most valuable things a man ever did."

Next: Power's wife wanted him to quit flying.

Air Pollution Receives Blame For Many Deaths

Cincinnati — (Science Service) Many deaths from heart disease and cancer may be related to air pollution, research suggests.

Two analytical statisticians from the Department of Health, Education and Welfare in Washington, D.C., reported the relationship here at the annual meeting of the Air Pollution Control Association. Richard Schiffman and Emanuel Landau presented information based on a study of 163 standard metropolitan areas that were ranked in terms of potential air pollution levels. Those with highest air pollution had a greater number of deaths from various diseases than the national average. Chronic rheumatic heart disease, arteriosclerotic heart disease, including coronary, and non-rheumatic chronic endocarditis were three that showed mortality increase in 20 standard metropolitan areas studied.

Above National Average

Similarly, cancer of the esophagus and stomach caused more deaths in 20 metropolitan areas with high air pollution than the national average, while cancer of the trachea, bronchus and lung showed comparable mortality increases.

The need for further study to show types of industries, fuels used and other factors related to air pollution and morbidity was emphasized.

Other investigators here minimized the "overwhelming importance" of cigarette smoking as a prime cause of cancer, which has been alleged by many researchers. They said the frequency of lung cancer started on the European continent before cigarette smoking became popular.

Recalls First Flight

Four of the girls are married. Two of them have moved away, both near Washington, D.C. One is married to a rural mail carrier here; the other to a school bus driver. The youngest girl lives with her parents and grandfather on the farm of 90-year-old James Powers at nearby Pound, Va.

"Francis was a fine young man," Powers said. "When he was a young boy I told him he wasn't to go with the bad kind of boys. Run with the best boys you can. They are going to amount to something. That's what he did. I never had a moment's worry with that boy."

Powers, in fact, may have tried to be too close to his son. The father revealed that when Francis was sent to Japan during the Korean War, the elder Powers wrote the Air Force asking that his "only son" not be sent into combat. Francis did not see action—although the letter undoubtedly had nothing to do with it.

First Plane Ride

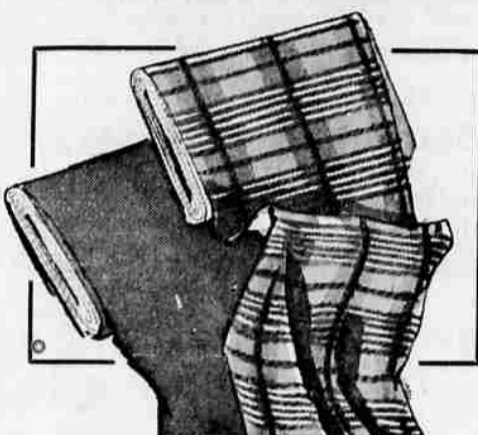
Powers recalled when Francis first went up in an airplane. The boy was 14 and the two were driving through Princeton, W. Va., on the way back from taking the elder girl to school.

"He kept after me to let him go up and there was an airport at Princeton," Powers said. "I remember the ride



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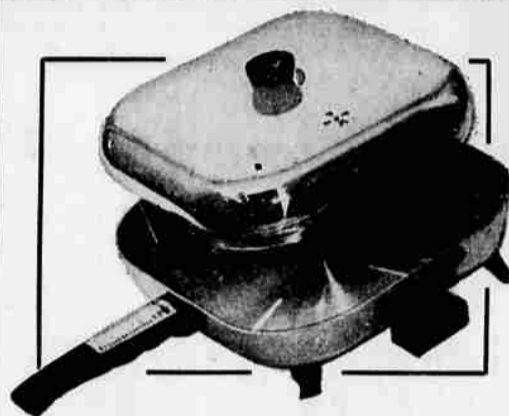


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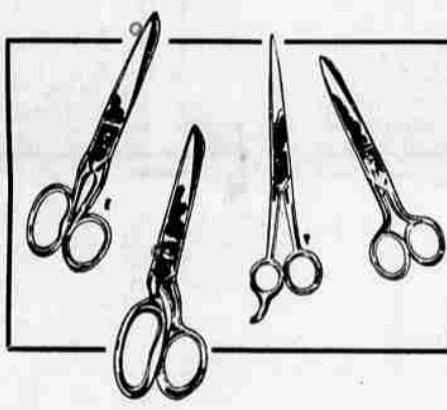


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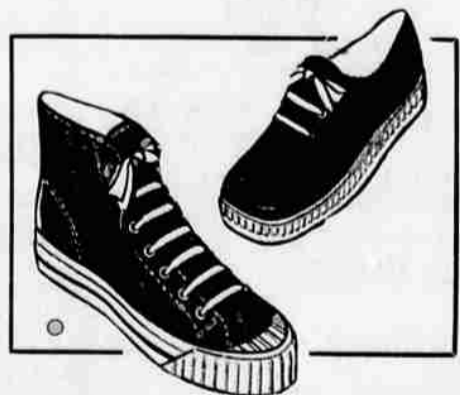


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- | | |
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| 2 large cooking pots w/lids | Shovels |
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| Kitchen knives | 8 wash basins |
| Long handled spoon | First aid kit |
| Long handled fork | Old chairs |
| Pancake turner | Old benches |
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Phone SP 2-4960 or SP 2-6582 before 5:00 P.M.

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AND A MEMBER OF MEDFORD LIONS CLUB WILL MAKE PICK-UP. IF YOU PREFER, LEAVE ITEMS AT GIRL SCOUTS, 500 East Main.

(Adv. pd. by Medford Lions Club)