



ARRIVING IN HAWAII aboard a military transport vessel, Mrs. Charles A. Kasdorf and children Joelyn, 3, and Charlene, 10 months, greet husband and father Charles A. Kasdorf, Y-2cl, who is stationed at Barber's Point naval air station. He is the brother of Ralph L. Kasdorf of Chemult. —Navy Photograph

## Woman Trapped in Plane Wreckage Sees Son Die

PORT TOWNSEND, Wash. (AP)—A mother, trapped upside down for 20 hours in a wrecked plane with her dead husband, told last night of watching her son die as help approached.

The mother, Mrs. Maye Mortensen, 33, and her daughter, Kathleen, 5, were pulled alive but seriously injured from the jammed-up wreckage.

Her husband, Richard G. Mortensen, 33, was killed outright in the crash, and the son, Russell, 8, died many hours later. Officials said they believed the boy suffered a skull fracture.

**CRASH**

The Seattle family crashed Sunday night on a wooded ridge near here while returning in their private plane from a visit to Bellingham 80 miles to the north. They were not located until yesterday afternoon.

"I knew Dick was dead," said Mrs. Mortensen from a hospital bed. "But Rusty lived for a long time as we lay there. I believe he died just a little while before the rescuers came. Perhaps if they had come sooner he would have lived."

Little Kathy's first words as she was taken from the plane wreckage were: "If I could just sit down." She was trapped in a bent-over standing position.

## Suffocation Death Evident

LOS ANGELES, (AP)—A "nightmare death" by suffocation in a locked trunk was suggested today by officials studying Los Angeles' latest murder mystery.

Dr. Victor Cefalu, assistant county autopsy surgeon, said a postmortem yesterday showed the young woman victim was not bludgeoned, strangled or shot to death.

The nude body was found in a trunk on a vacant lot Sunday. Examination showed no bodily injuries.

The woman's identity also is puzzling investigators. An amethyst ring and a few pieces of clothing stuffed in the trunk are the only clues.

**ROSE QUEEN HOME**

PORTLAND, (AP)—Portland's 1951 Rose festival queen, Gloria Krieger, arrived from Hollywood Monday for a brief visit. Miss Krieger, who recently signed a movie contract with Columbia studios, said she already is at work on a picture.

## Air Teamplay Nixes Crash

NEW ORLEANS, (AP)—An airliner carrying 40 persons came down safely last night after getting instructions 400 miles away for lowering a jammed landing gear.

The Chicago and Southern Constellation circled Moisant international airport for two hours and 13 minutes while Flight Eng. Ed Acree of Memphis, Tenn., worked on the landing gear.

**ADVICE**

Acree, baffled after emergency measures failed to lower the giant liner's left wheel, asked C. and S. headquarters at Memphis for advice.

The maintenance department there broke out a diagram of the plane, diagnosed the trouble, and teletyped the airport control tower here instructions how to lower the wheel manually. The tower radioed Acree.

Wiggling through a narrow emergency hatch in the plane's belly, Acree cleared away stacks of heavy luggage, squeezed through another emergency compartment, and shut off a hydraulic gear that controlled the landing mechanism. Then he lowered the wheel by a manual lever.

Safe aground, 35 passengers, many with tear-filled eyes, praised Acree and the four other crew members.

James R. Mary of New Orleans said, "The crew is really to be commended. They didn't tell us anything. But we knew the landing gear was stuck."

**NO SMILES**

Mervin Leblond of Rochester, N. Y., said Acree kept going down in the belly of the plane and coming back. "There wasn't any smile on his face. He didn't have to tell us it wasn't fixed."

Said Ben Sugarman of San Francisco: "We were all on the hot spot. A Catholic fellow started praying." Sugarman, a Jew, said he knelt down beside the Catholic and started praying, too.

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## Drunk Blamed In 7 Deaths

SAN FRANCISCO, (AP)—A "very drunk" sailor has been blamed for the Greyhound bus tragedy which killed seven persons and injured 27 just before dawn Sunday.

Wayne Petty, chief traffic investigator for the Oakland police department, said laboratory tests showed that Navy Boatswain Mate Orville C. Russell, Jr., was in a highly alcoholic state when his car smashed a concrete abutment on a ramp of the San Francisco bay bridge.

That crash hurled a huge concrete block into the path of the bus, causing it to blow a tire, career through the guard rails and plunge 40 feet to the ground.

A freighter sailor who said he was driving behind Russell—Robert Sanders—said Russell was traveling about 35 miles an hour.

Without putting on his brakes or apparently making any effort to avoid the crash, Russell drove smack into the concrete abutment, Sanders told police.

Capt. J. H. Shaffer, head of the California highway patrol's bridge detail, said Russell would be prosecuted for drunken driving if he recovers. The sailor is in serious condition. His car rolled on top of him when it bounced off the abutment.

**POOR HUNTING**

PRINEVILLE, (AP)—Poor elk hunting conditions were reported by central Oregon hunters after the first weekend of the elk season. Nearly all hunters returned without game.

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