

Suicide Plane Dive Takes Life of Rich Texas Rancher

SWEETWATER, Tex. (AP)—"I'm coming down," a wealthy West Texas rancher radioed and plunged his bright yellow plane 6,800 feet into the gravel pit he had picked to die in.

Frantic, futile pleading by friends and airport officials in a three-hour air-to-ground argument failed to stop Ollie William Cox, 28, from his screaming dive Sunday.

He was the owner of the 2,500-acre Double Heart Hereford ranch 10 miles south of here, and scion of a pioneer West Texas ranching family.

Civil Aeronautics Administration experts Monday studied a tape recording of Cox's lengthy radio conversation with friends on the ground in an effort to find a motive for the suicide plunge.

"I just can't face it," he repeated over and over in the rambling dialogue. Another time he sobbed: "Nobody loves me. Nobody can help me."



REST UNDISTURBED. A lone, round mound perches beside road in West Hyattsville, Md., where the march of suburban Washington was forced to circle about a 125-year-old grave. The tombstone on the mound tells the story of Ann Barber, born in London in 1800, who came to the United States and died "near this place" in 1825. Maryland state law forbids building above graves, and so the remains of Ann Barber lie undisturbed except for youngsters Wayne Thompson, 6, left, and Kenneth McConkey, 7, playing nearby.

Typhoon Hits Eniwetok

HONOLULU (AP)—The Hawaiian Sea Frontier reports a typhoon hit Eniwetok Island yesterday and caused some damage but "no serious casualties."

There are about 500 U. S. military personnel on the island, a mid-Pacific base for testing atomic and other secret weapons.

A Navy spokesman said a message from the island, received at 10:13 p.m., EST, last night, reported most of the island was under water. A later message said, "No immediate assistance required. Will keep you advised."

London Fountain Turns Bubbly

LONDON (AP)—Trafalgar Square's famous fountain at the foot of Nelson's Column became a frothy bubble bath yesterday—to the delight of many but to the consternation of public officials.

An unknown practical joker poured detergent into strategic spots around the pool. Water from the fountainheads churned it into snowy lather. Eventually, it washed away.

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Threats, jokes and pleadings could not change his announced intention of crashing into the gravel pit near here when his gas supply was exhausted.

"Everything is all messed up," Cox said over and over again.

He joked, broke into tears once, but refused to land the small five-passenger craft. Once he asked the airport to check on any airliners in the vicinity.

"I don't want anybody else to get hurt," he said.

A tape recording was made of the long radio conversation by the CAA but when it was played back to reporters Monday it gave no definite motive for the crash.

Cox started out by designating the particular gravel pit in which he planned to crash and he stuck by the plan. Reporters said Cox's conversation was often rambling and indistinct.

"I'll meet you at the gravel pit," he said several times when his friends tried to get him to land at the Abilene or Sweetwater Airports, or at a private runway at his ranch.

"If I do come down now, I'll lose my wife, all my friends, I'll lose everything," he said once.

Another time he sobbed and said: "I'm not any good, I'm not any good."

Nobody loves me. Nobody can help me.

Near the end of the recording he began to brag about his flying ability.

When a CAA man warned that his gas supply should be running short, Cox snapped back: "Don't tell me time is short, I know it."

Then came the end of the recording. "I'm at 6,800 feet. Can you hear me?"

"I'm coming on down."

There was silence in the Abilene control tower.

His friends hoped that Cox had changed his mind and landed at Sweetwater, but in a few minutes there was a telephone call from Sweetwater telling of the crash.

CAA officials refused to repeat the tape recording until they got approval from regional officials in Fort Worth.

"I just can't face it," said Dow Patterson, acting chief of the Abilene, Tex., control tower, where two friends sped to talk with Cox. "He had some sort of difficulty and was evidently tired of it all. But I wouldn't want to say on the basis of what I overheard what that trouble was."

Patterson said Cox "ran the gamut of emotions from humor to

depression" during his radio conversation with Earl Grita Sweetwater filling station operator, and L. M. Hubbard, Sweetwater barber.

Critz refused to repeat any of the conversation.

"We pleaded with him... tried to get him to come down," said Hubbard. "We talked to him about his family. He broke down—crying, I think."

While Hubbard tried to talk his friend to safety, Mrs. Hubbard drove to the vast ranch and got Mrs. Cox, who is expecting a child in about a month. After the fatal plunge Mrs. Cox was put to bed under a doctor's care. Relatives took the couple's 3-year-old daughter Karren Kay home with them.

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Price Tags High For New Year Benders

NEW YORK (AP)—What will it cost a couple to go to a hotel or night club and there don paper caps and blow horns and yell "Happy new year" at the stroke of midnight?

In terms of money it will be just about the same as last year from coast to coast.

Speaking of advertised prices only, here are a few from the nation's larger cities:

New York—Minimum checks of \$27.50 a person in a few of the best-known night clubs are the top. Such hotels as the Waldorf-Astoria and Plaza are charging \$20 minimums per person. Plenty of others are charging lower prices. There also are about 1,500 bars in the city where you can walk in, buy one drink and yell "Happy new year!" at midnight if you're determined to do it.

Greater Miami area—A dozen or more beach hotels now have supper clubs and are reported offering keen competition to night clubs. In the latter, prices will range from \$12.50 to \$25 per person. One big hotel is charging \$20 a head. Night clubs and hotel supper rooms report heavier bookings than last year, with prices about the same or a little less.

Kansas City — From \$6.50 to \$12.50 a person for a seven-course dinner, favors and entertainment. Drinks are extra.

Chicago—From \$6.10 to \$15.56 at principal night clubs and hotels for dinner, dancing, entertainment, favors and noisemakers.

Boston—\$10 to \$12 apiece for the works—except liquor.

New Orleans—Like New York, a big range here — \$2 to \$20. But for \$20 if you give you a highball and a pint of champagne with dinner and entertainment. After you've consumed those, you're on your own.

San Francisco — From \$12.50 a person down, with liquor extra.

Dallas — From \$15 down. No liquor by the drink; sold in Texas public places, but you can bring your own jug and buy setups.

Los Angeles—Prices in the well-known Hollywood and Los Angeles nightspots start at \$31.95 (tax included). At Ciro's and the Coconut Grove this price includes breakfast and hangover cures furnished by a thoughtful management.

Atlanta — One hotel is offering dinner, an ice show and dancing for \$9.25. Other club and hotel prices range from \$5 to \$7.50 apiece.

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