

Aviator and Two Passengers Perish at Marina Plane Burns to Cinders After Crash

Machine Hits Wire While Landing
and Hurtles to Earth, Pinning
2 Men and Boy Underneath

Two men and a boy were burned to death and the airplane in which they were riding was demolished yesterday afternoon on the Marina when the plane, in attempting to land, struck a high power line, dashing the craft to the ground and causing the gasoline to explode.

THE DEAD:

LANE, DAN 22, pilot 164 Jordan avenue

LANE, PAUL, 10, passenger, 164 Jordan avenue

TUCKER, H.L., 37, passenger, 52 Macondray street

The accident was witnessed by hundreds of people and attempts to drag the victims from the wreckage were futile owing to the fact that the whole machine was burning enveloped by flames from the exploding gas tank.

ENGINE TROUBLE FIRST

Eyewitnesses to the tragedy say Pilot Lane, with his two passengers started on a trip over the Marina and after proceeding but a short distance, evidently experienced engine trouble. He circled back down the field and was in the act of landing when he saw his path was blocked by an automobile. He then attempted to rise again but struck the power line snapping it in two, and sending the machine hurtling to the ground. The explosion instantly followed the crash. The plane turned over from its impact with the wire, pinning its occupants under the machine but clear of the engine.

FLAMES PREVENT RESCUE

Albert Bascou of Oakland and member of the United States Merchant Marine, was the first one to reach the plane and as he made an attempt to release the occupants from the remnants of the plane the explosion occurred and he had to quickly retreat to safety. The plane was a mass of flames in a second, he said, there was no possible chance to release the occupants of the craft.

That Pilot Lane made a desperate effort to save his young cousin was evidenced when the bodies were recovered from the wreckage. The hand of the pilot clutched the hand of Paul Lane so tightly it was necessary to pry the hands apart before the bodies were placed in the ambulance.

Lane, the pilot was a nephew of Captain L.L. Lane of the Western Whaling and Trading Company, 164 Sansome street He saw service in the world war as an aviator and was well known in Detroit and Philadelphia, where he gave a number of aerial exhibitions. He has been in San Francisco but a short time and only went to work for the H. M. Friesley Aircraft Corporation a few days ago. He met his death in a Friesley plane.

PILOT FOR RUSS PICKETS

A short time before the accident, Lane made a trip with a party and circled over the

Auditorium, where the Democratic National Convention was in session. Propaganda urging the lifting of the Russian blockade was dropped from the plane on this trip by Mrs. Daisy Tucker, wife of one of the victims. He returned to the Marina a short time before the fatal trip.

Paul Lane, the 10 year old boy who was killed, was a cousin of the pilot and son of Captain Lane and resided at 164 Jordan avenue, he was born in Alaska.

Herman L. Tucker the other victim, came here with his wife a little over a year ago. They have both been interested in the Russian blockade raising, and Mrs. Tucker, who made the first trip with Lane, is the secretary and organizer of the Russian Embargo League. They reside at 52 Macondray street. They came here from Honolulu where Tucker was in government service.

The victims were burned beyond all possibility of recognition.

While spectators say Lane undoubtedly experienced engine trouble, it was said at the offices of the H. M. Freisley Aircraft Corporation in the Phelan building, that the plane was pronounced in the best of condition before the start of the fatal flight. The accident occurred at 3:40. It was necessary to have the power shut off before the wreckage could be approached with any degree of safety. The breaking of the wires sent the spectators scurrying in all directions.

WOODEN WHARF IGNITED

The plane fell on the wharf and in a few minutes the wooden structure was in flames. The fire department experienced much difficulty in checking the burning wharf.

Within a few minutes after the report of the accident had reached the city hundreds of persons went to the Marina and the police had difficulty in keeping the curious from the wreckage long enough to extricate the victims from the wreckage.