

Ethel Kennedy's Brother Killed With 4 Others in Idaho Air Crash

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RIGGINS, Idaho, Sept. 24—

Mrs. Robert F. Kennedy's brother and four other persons were killed last night when a plane carrying them on a hunting trip crashed in a narrow canyon.

The plane, a single-engine Cessna 185, became trapped by the nearly vertical walls of Crooked Creek Canyon and crashed while the pilot was making a desperate, last-minute attempt to turn.

In addition to Senator Kennedy's brother-in-law, George Skakel Jr., who was the owner of the Great Lakes Carbon Company of New York, the dead were:

Lewis Werner 2d, St. Louis, a member of a socially prominent family and operator of an investment business.

Dean P. Markham, 47, MacLean, Va., an assistant to Mr. Skakel and a former White House aide during President Kennedy's Administration. He once was head of the staff of the White House Commission on Narcotics Abuse.

Earl Kanft, Jersey City, president of Draybar Haulage.

Sgt. Donald Adams, Mountain Home Air Force Base, Idaho, the pilot.



Associated Press
George Skakel Jr.

Mr. Skakel, whose home was in Greenwich, Conn., was the owner of the plane.

It was the second air tragedy involving Ethel Kennedy's family. Her parents, Mr. and Mrs. George Skakel Sr., were killed in a small plane crash in Oklahoma in 1955.

Yesterday's crash scene was

in the area where Senator Kennedy and some of his children participated in a rubber raft trip on the Salmon River last summer.

Thomas Wyman of New York City, a member of the 20-member hunting party, said he was on an earlier plane and saw the Skakel plane try to land. "He overshot the runway," Mr. Wyman said, "and came down on the runway and then took off again." The runway was on the Shepp guest ranch where the party was planning to hunt elks.

Mr. Wyman and other friends of the victims went into the Crooked Creek Canyon during the night and found the wreckage. They had heard the plane crash after the pilot decided to abort his landing and try again to put it down on the airstrip.

Falls Into Creek

All five occupants of the plane, Mr. Wyman said, were thrown clear of the wreckage. He said the plane hit very few trees and crashed into the bank of crooked creek and fell into the water.

"It did more than telescope," Mr. Wyman said. "It disintegrated." He said the party had flown west yesterday in a larger plane and had planned to spend 10 days at the ranch.

A helicopter was sent into the area today to pick up the bodies and take them to Riggins. The crash took place 32 miles east of Riggins.

State Aeronautics Director Chet Moulton blamed the crash on pilot inexperience in the back country.

"If they'd have used some schooled pilot who had known the strip it wouldn't have happened," he said.

The pilot, he said, committed the "one unpardonable sin" in attempting to land on the ranch strip by changing his mind and trying to fly out for another pass at it.

The plane crash was the second in Idaho's primitive area this month. On Sept. 14 a small plane crashed near Stanley, killing Idaho's Democratic nominee for Governor, Charles Herndon, and two other men.

Kennedy Flies Home

Special to The New York Times

MANCHESTER, N. H., Sept. 24—Senator Robert F. Kennedy of New York canceled a two-day New England campaign swing today, when word reached him that his brother-in-law had been killed in an airplane crash in Idaho.

The Senator had been scheduled to deliver the keynote address

this afternoon at the New Hampshire state Democratic convention, to speak at a Democratic fund-raising dinner in Burlington, Vt., tonight, and to campaign for the Democrats in Maine tomorrow.

He had no sooner landed at the Manchester Airport than aides summoned him to an office in the terminal. After a lengthy telephone conversation with Mrs. Kennedy in Washington, the Senator announced that he was returning to the capital.

An intermediate stop was planned at Bradley Field, serving Springfield, Mass., and Hartford, Conn., where Mr. Kennedy was to pick up two children of Dean P. Markham, a personal friend who was also killed in the Idaho crash.