GIRL DIES IN STUNT BOARDING AIRPLANE FROM RUNNING AUTO

Miss Madeline Davis of Florida Killed at Long Branch in a Practice Feat.

RUTH LAW AT THE WHEEL

Aviatrix Was Driving Car Running Below the Flier, With Ladder Hanging Underneath.

CAUGHT LADDER, BUT FELL

Both Traveling at About 45 Miles an Hour—Victim Experienced in Daredevil Flying.

Special to The New York Times.

LONG BRANCH, N. J., Oct. 4.—Miss Madeline Davis, 23 years old, a professional "stunt" flier, was fatally injured in a peculiar accident here this afternoon, trying to qualify as the only woman in the world to perform the feat of leaping from an automobile in motion to an airplane in motion. She caught a rope ladder suspended from the airplane as it swept overhead at about fifty miles an hour, but lost her grip and fell fifteen feet to the ground, fracturing her skull. She died in the Monmouth Memorial Hospital tonight.

The automobile from which Miss Davis made the attempt was driven by Miss Ruth Law, the aviator, and the airplane was piloted by Lieutenant Brenon Treat of Chicago, a skilled pilot. Had Miss Davis succeeded, she expected to join the Ruth Law Flying Circus and give exhibitions.

Dr. Charles E. Jamison of Asbury Park, Coroner of Monmouth County, who examined Miss Law and Lieutenant Treat, besides other witnesses of the tragedy, said tonight that there was no reason to hold anybody.

Known as a "Wing Walker."

When Dr. Jamison questioned Miss Law, she told him that Miss Davis had come to her headquarters in Asbury Park several days ago from the West, where she said that she had given a number of exhibitions, the last in Battle Creek, Mich. She introduced herself as a "wing walker," meaning that she was best known for walking along the wing of an airplane.

"There is nothing on land or in the air that I am afraid of," Miss Davis told Miss Law. "I have been flying for the last two years and doing all sorts of stunts in the air, and parachute jumping. Now I want to do something different; something that nobody else does at least that no other woman does. If I can learn to take the leap from an automobile to an airplane I ought to be a big attraction for your company."

The party started from Asbury Park the middle of the afternoon, going to a place on Ocean Avenue, near Seaview Avenue, Long Branch, which had been selected in advance because the road had a long, clear sweep suitable for the demonstration. Lieutenant Treat, a member of the Flying Circus, was alone in the airplane, and Miss Law and Miss Davis were the only occupants of the motor car. Miss Law drove and Miss Davis sat in the rear seat.

Feat Carefully Practiced.

The trio practiced for half an hour before they made the actual test. Miss Law drove the car at about 45 miles an hour back and forth along the road, and the aviator, slowing down to automobile speed, flew close to the earth over the motorists several times.

By this time it was late afternoon and the day was becoming dark, but Miss Davis insisted on going through with the test.

The crowd held its breath as the two machines shot down the wide boulevard for the final trip, the automobile with its passengers a good distance in advance of the airplane. Miss Law bent over the wheel to hold the car in the centre of the road. Miss Davis, her face determined and hands clenched on the side of the car, waited.

Behind them roared the airplane, first speeding up to a short distance behind the automobile, and then slowing so that it was going only a little faster. Slowly the dangling rope crept closer to Miss Davis's grasp. She jumped and caught the bottom rung of the rope ladder. She swung to and fro a moment, but her strength was not great enough to enable her to climb up the ladder and board the plane. As she tried to climb, her hands slipped and she fell to earth.

Rushed to the hospital in Miss Law's automobile, the young woman died of a fractured skull at 8 o'clock tonight without regaining consciousness. Her body was taken to a local undertaking shop, whence it will be shipped to her home at Fort Pierce, Florida. Her mother, Mrs. C. A. Davis, of that city, was notified.

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