

The Story Behind Story Of Plane Crash

An airplane crashing through the roof of a supermarket in Farmington is something which has never happened and may never occur again.

The near-disaster was one of the best-read news stories in many months, evidenced by how fast Farmington Enterprise & Observer newsmen emptied the morning after the crash occurred.

The morning daily had managed to get a picture and incomplete story on the tragedy in some of its suburban editions. But the Enterprise & Observer hit the streets with as complete a story as was known at that time and managed a front-page spread on what might

prove to be the news story of the year locally.

THE REPORT of the crash was read Wednesday. Our readers, however, might be interested in hearing the story behind the story — an account of extraordinary teamwork and the drama of racing towards a deadline with a "hold the presses" demand that appears more often in movies than in real journalistic life.

This, then, is the story not of the crash but of how the tragedy was reported, some ironies behind the scenes, and the kind of dedication that sometimes we in the business tend to take for granted.

Five p.m. Monday is the deadline for routine news stories. Newsworthy incidents that occur Monday night are written Tuesday morning and, normally, by 11 a.m. all news stories are completed and sent to the copy desk to be read before being sent to the composing department to be set in type.

Occasionally, the front page is held open until 10 p.m. to publish important news that might occur on a Tuesday night that we know about in advance.

AIRPLANE crashes are unpredictable, to say the least.

In this case, Mrs. Joan Beck of Farmington who works in our accounting department was near Farmer Jack's when the plane crashed. Jean is not only a sharp gal with a head for figures but has enough of a news nose to get on the phone fast.

Daniels Den

By EMORY DANIELS

Inset the former publisher of a small weekly in Wayne who was my first boss after graduating from CMU seven years ago.

He is in the public relations business now but when told of the news his nose stretched longer than his head had swelled from pride over his new granddaughter.

While I was kissing my wife goodbye and heading for home, Mrs. Sandra Armbruster was on the phone calling in a report to Ely on his of information she had learned.

Sandy was driving to the school board meeting Tuesday night and got caught in the traffic snarl on Farmington Rd. Before proceeding to the school board, she talked to a few eye-witnesses gathered as much information as she could, and phoned the central news desk.

SHORTLY after Sandy left for the school board, Margaret Miller had left her house a few blocks away to show up at the scene. Margaret, Observer Newspapers' Women's Editor, lives in Farmington and was entertaining her folks when the plane crashed.

Margaret had once worked for the Associated Press news wire and has experience gathering bits and pieces of information from all sources when a story is immediately unavailable. She quickly switched hats from women's editor to hard news reporter and began talking with witnesses, police, and bystanders.

At this point, the news desk was called and the executive editor had arrived to lend a hand. We decided to run bulletins in Livonia, Plymouth and Southfield and go with what we had on Farmington page one.

By 10:15 p.m. the news story and bulletins were written at my kitchen news bureau and were called in to the news desk. R. T. Thompson, executive-editor known by his fellow-workers as "Tommy," placed the phone receiver lightly to his ear and began typing as I read.

The news story was given to Ely to copy read while Tommy took the shorter news bulletin version for the other communities. At this point, four front pages were being held up.

By 11 p.m., the "kitchen news bureau" closed down and all the action was occurring at the news desk. The story and bulletin, after being copy read, was sent to our production department which did an amazing job in speeding the story into type and onto the news pages.

MEANWHILE, Ralph Evert is back in his darkroom making prints and Sandy is at the school board covering the meeting. Margaret is home making a second attempt to entertain her parents. Tommy is writing the headline and redesigning the front page as discussed over the phone with the Farmington editor.

The pictures arrived and the story and headlines appeared and the Farmington front page was on its way to the pressroom. Bulletins were inserted in the other three papers and they began their pressward journey.

The next morning, the Farmington Enterprise & Observer was on the newsstands with a full account of the first air crash in the community's history.

It was possible only because of a great deal of teamwork which is used daily for routine matters but works best when the rush towards deadline is on with a big story. No one had to give orders — a team of newsmen and professional production crew created with built-in, anti-panic abilities that ended successfully.

An unfortunate incident to the long night was that Sandra Armbruster, returning from the school board meeting, had her car struck by another and ended up hitching a ride to our offices with the Everts when the pictures were delivered. Sandy spent the next two days in bed but escaped injury.

As editor, I am extremely proud of the team that made those special efforts Tuesday night and my thanks go to Sandra Armbruster, Margaret Miller, Ralph and Fran Evert, Ely Graham, and my immediate boss — Tommy. Thanks, gang, for beating the deadline in true Lombardi fashion.

FATHER'S DAY SUGGESTION

Black & Decker

DELUXE SHRUB & HEDGE TRIMMER
16" Double edged Blade

\$24.88
Reg. \$29.95

MODEL #8120

COMING SOON!
OUR 10th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Watch the Observer for Details

LIVONIA HARDWARE
True Value Hardware
5 MILE ROAD at FARMINGTON ROAD
937-1611
OPEN DAILY 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM
SUNDAY 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM

At 7:30 p.m. Tuesday when the crash occurred, the newsmen was almost empty with only one person remaining to help put the paper to bed.

When Jean called in from the front page of the crash, the front page of the Farmington Enterprise & Observer was already planned and soon would have been completed and on its way to our super presses.

Initially, the Farmington editor was in Ann Arbor at the time of the crash, at the time visiting his wife and newborn son Lyle who had arrived the Sunday before, June 4.

Mrs. Ely Graham, editorial aide and jack-of-all-trades, got hold of me at the hospital and explained over the phone that a plane had crashed in the city and ambulances were at the scene. My first instruction was to hold the front page and wait for me to get home for a return call.

THE NEXT call was to Ralph Evert, our photographer living in Farmington Township, who listened for about five seconds and was out the door with camera and strobe.

Assured that Ralph was on his way, I went down the hall to the nursery to get a last look at son Lyle before rushing home. Arriving at the nursery,

at this point, it was unknown whether we could get the story but the commitment was made and this newspaper never has empty holes.

NEXT PHONE call was to Margaret Miller who passed on the information she had picked up at the store.

At this point, the skeleton of the story was fitting together. Information from both Sandy and Margaret matched and a pattern was emerging. At 9 p.m., I risked a phone call to city police with the hope the emergency was under control enough so my questions wouldn't interfere with their work. It was too early so I quickly hung up to give police the freedom they needed to get on with their work.

A phone call was then placed to Botsford Hospital emergency and a report received on the number of persons admitted. Names, of course, were unavailable at this point and no further questions were asked because the emergency room also was operating under pressure.

Next a call was made to St. Mary Hospital in Livonia to check on the number of persons taken to their emergency facility.

Pieces of information collected on the kitchen table seemed to point to the fact that the airplane had left Mettetal Airport and Plymouth and Town over Novi before heading towards Farmington. Mettetal was called in an attempt to get a passenger list and flight plan but the rings received no answer.

It was now 9:30 p.m. and my goal was to write the story and call it in by 10 p.m. Enough information was gathered to sit down at the typewriter but there were still missing facts needed to make the story more complete.

A CALL was made to the township police for information they were able to release and then a second call was made to city police. Fortunately, Lt. Daniel Byrnes had returned to police headquarters and was kind enough to report what he knew and fill in the gaps in my reports — namely, the names of the injured persons.

Heeney - Sundquist

A Funeral Home For Over 75 Years
23720 FARMINGTON ROAD
PLENTY OF PARKING IN OUR NEW LOT

THAYER FUNERAL HOME

(NEW CHAPEL)

Grand River at Liberty Street - Farmington - GR 4-4131

Schools Offer Hope

Summer will be exciting and rewarding for many area students who take advantage of the Farmington School District's summer program starting in June. It is open to residents and non-residents alike.

Registration for the programs, including academic and physical and musical courses, will be held 8 a.m. - noon and 1-5 p.m. from June 21-25.

Harrison High School 29995 12 Mile Road, will be the location for registration in the secondary summer program.

SECONDARY classes are scheduled to meet from June 27 - Aug. 9 in Harrison. Tuition will cost \$30 per each two-hour class. Academic classes offered will include such regular subjects as math, English, physical and social sciences.

Three levels of instruction will be offered to band students: intermediate band for junior high students with some experience, music theory for those wishing an introduction to the basic components of music; and, concert band for junior and senior high performers.

Registration for wrestling will take place on the first day of class at 10 a.m., for junior high students. Basketball instruction will be offered on three levels: 9 a.m. elementary, 10 a.m. junior high and 11 a.m. senior high.

THE ELEMENTARY summer program is designed to give students opportunities for growth in academic, motor and musical skills. Registration for these programs will take place in Kenbrook Elementary School, 32180 Bonnell.

Operating under Kenbrook's learning center concept, students in grades two through six will have the chance to improve such skills as reading, spelling, writing, math, science and language.

Beginning tumbling and trampolining will be offered in Kenbrook as well as wrestling for fifth and sixth graders, basketball for fourth through sixth graders.

Classes in beginning, intermediate and advanced tumbling, trampolining, senior skills and boys apparatus will also be offered at North Farmington High School.

Instrumental music will be offered at two locations in the district: 8:30 - 10 a.m. Ten Mile Elementary School and 10:30 - noon in Kenbrook.

Visit a House of God

Judson Baptist Church

28301 Middlebelt Rd. Farmington
(Between 12 and 13 Mile Roads)
Rev. Fred G. Ferris, Pastor
Morning Worship 11:00 a.m. Sunday Service: Youth Meeting: 5:45 p.m.
Bible School: 9:45 a.m. Evening Gospel Hour: 7 p.m.
Mid Week Bible Study and Prayer Wednesday 7:30 p.m.
Presiding the heart of the Gospel for the heart of man.

Northwest Unitarian Universalist Church

The Rev. Frank D. Gentile, Minister
Guest Speaker: Ralph Shuman-Wine
Sunday Service and Church School 10 a.m.
Northwestern Hwy. at Maplebridge 354-4488

Holy Resurrection Orthodox Church

26275 Northwestern Hwy.
100% Mile and Lehigh Southfield
ALL SERVICES IN ENGLISH
Pastor: Archbishop Nicholas Feder
8:45 a.m. Divine Liturgy
8:45 a.m. Church School
For Further Information Call 557-2588

SALEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Oakland at G.D. River Farmington
SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:00 a.m.
ADULT BIBLE STUDY (Nurses) 9:15 a.m.
WORSHIP SERVICE (Nurses) 10:15 a.m.
Parsonage GR 6-0487
Church Office GR 4-6880
Carl H. Schultz, Minister

CLARENCEVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

20300 Middlebelt Rd.
Livonia, Michigan
9:00 a.m. Worship Service
10:15 a.m. Church School
11:15 a.m. Worship Service
6:30 p.m. Youth Groups
7:30 p.m. The Evening Service
Wednesday 7:30 p.m. Prayer Service
GR 4-3563 ELSIE A. JOHNS, Minister GR 4-6902

Church of the Redeemer

Southfield Road between 8 and 9 Mile
The Rev. John Osgood Hart, Rector
8:00 a.m. Holy Communion
10:30 a.m. Morning Prayer and Sermon
Church School and Nursery
Holy Communion 10:30 a.m. on First Sunday

Emmanuel LUTHERAN CHURCH

Lahser Rd. nr. 9 Mile. EL 7-1848
Church School 9:30
Service of Worship 10:45
Rev. Donald W. Muehlendahl, Pastor
WORSHIP WITH US

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

26165 Farmington Rd.
Farmington, Michigan
(at 11 Mile)
Summer Schedule
9:30 Worship Service
9:30 Church School
George W. Ramsey, Minister
Homer E. New, Assistant Minister
474-6170

YOUNG ISRAEL OF SOUTHFIELD

is happy to announce
their opening for
Sabbath Services and
Stevenson School
(Luther & Woodworth)
Services: Fri. 7:30 a.m.
Sabbath 9:00 a.m.
Public is invited
352-3248 354-2454
Call Ann Ryder
for information
261-8600 ext. 280

WOW! CHURCH OF OUR SAVIOUR

WILHELMINA and TWIN MAPLES
Presbyterian
Service
9:30 a.m.
Ralph Strick, Pastor

Evangelical Covenant Church

24331 W. 8 Mile - Telegraph
Church: KE 6-0225 Detroit
Edwin T. Clements, Pastor KE 3-9363
Sunday Services
9:30 a.m. Sunday School
10:45 a.m. Morning Worship
7:00 p.m. Evening Service

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF FARMINGTON

Grand River at Warner
Worship Service, Church School and Nursery
9:30 and 11 a.m.
Ministers:
Rev. Hugh C. White
Rev. Howard F. Snell
Parsonage GR 4-7568
Office GR 4-6573

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

21200 SOUTHFIELD ROAD at EIGHT MILE ROAD
SOUTHFIELD, MICHIGAN
SUNDAY: 11 a.m. Morning Worship
6 p.m. Baptist Youth Fellowship
WEDNESDAY: 7:30 p.m. OASIS HOUR
A. Merrill Jensen - Pastor 6 p.m. Visitor Fellowship

Church of Christ

of Southfield
22365 W. 11 Mile Road
353-2648
Sunday
10 a.m. Sunday School
11 a.m. Morning Worship
6 p.m. Eve. Worship
Wednesday
7:30 p.m. Bible Study
G. E. Montgomery, Minister

Nardin Park UNITED METHODIST

29887 W. 11 Mile Road
Farmington 476-8860
William Mercer, Senior Minister
Merrill Moberg, Associate
Ministers of Music
Ira Slater and George T. Sitt
Worship Service
10:00 a.m.
"Above the Hills"
Dr. Mercer Preaching
Sunday School Nursery
this 2nd grade only
10:00 a.m.
see conditioned building

Vote For Kenneth J. Guion P.E.

Board of Education
Farmington School District

Monday June 12, 1972

- Associate and Director of Data Processing, Smith, Hinchman & Grylls Associates, Inc., (Detroit Architectural and Engineering firm)
- Registered Professional Engineer with Masters of Engineering from University of Michigan.
- Currently holds positions on the boards of several National Professional Organizations.
- President and Past Vice President, Middlebelt PTA.
- Regularly attends Farmington Board of Education meetings.
- Serves on Board of Administration, Nardin Park United Methodist Church.
- Organizer and Sponsor of "Sonlighters," a teenage Christian Youth Group which has grown to membership of over 150 since September.
- Three young children in the Farmington School System
- Former instructor at University of Toledo.

Paid for at regular advertising rates by Citizens for Ken Guion, P. Minister, Pres., J. Peoples, Treas.