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Plane Hits McCluer High Gymnasium, Pilot Killed

A light plane crashed against the auditorium-gymnasium of McCluer High School in Florissant at 10:45 a.m. today. None of the 31 students and a dance teacher who were in the gymnasium was injured.

The pilot, whose identity was not immediately known, ploughed the control tower at Lambert-St. Louis Field at 11:40 p.m. that he was running low on fuel. He was instructed to land on any runway that he could reach. The plane was seen to land on a runway at airport when the damage was received.

Miss Alice King, the dance teacher, had dismissed a class in the gymnasium about a minute before the plane hit the south wall of the gymnasium. Eleven girls had remained in the gymnasium to continue their practice after the class was dismissed.

"Pieces of brick, concrete and glass were thrown over the floor," Miss King said a reporter. "None of us was struck. I gathered the girls and hurried them out of the building."

The plane plunged part way through a bank of windows at the top of the gymnasium wall. Part of the roof of the gymnasium and a roof overhanging a stairway were damaged. A spokesman for the school district said morning lines in the central auditorium were knocked out.

The plane slipped from the wall and came to rest on a parking area near the main entrance to the gymnasium. Firemen from Florissant, Ferguson and Lambert Field responded, but there was no fire. The body of the pilot was taken from the wreck. He was pronounced dead at St. Louis County Hospital, Clayton.

As is customary, the Flying Boston Club of Lambert Field engine Cessna 182, and gave the registration number "3282," when calling the Lambert Field tower. Florissant authority do not know the name of the pilot.

Federal Aviation Agency officials said the pilot's pilot's license was issued to Mortgage Center, Inc., 5220 Fifth avenue, Lambert Field. The firm is reported to lease planes to private pilots.

Papers found in the crashed cockpit bore the name of a San Diego resident. FAA officials began an investigation. A FAA spokesman said the pilot, who crashed, would not be made public until relatives were notified of his death. The high school, with an enrollment of 3,000 students, is considered to be largest in Missouri.

Neil McNorton, 400 St. Brendan lane, and Gregory Milich, 1318 St. Mark drive both of Florissant, students at McCluer, were standing outside the gymnasium and saw the crash.

"The plane came from east to west, then it circled back east again. Then it turned north, barely cleared a row of trees, and came in low over the roof of the building," one of the boys said. They said they thought the pilot was attempting to land on the school's football field, just north of the gymnasium.

McNorton is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Lee McNorton, and Milich is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Nicholas Milich.

Students said there had been no pre-assembly in the gymnasium, the last ending at 11 a.m. There were 200 students at each assembly.

Miss King said that had the students been in the gymnasium they surely would have been hurt by flying debris.

Former President Dwight D. Eisenhower (left) and President Lyndon B. Johnson on the eighteenth green of a golf course in Palm Springs, Calif., yesterday.

Briefing on War

President Visits With Eisenhower

By DAVID B. HOWES
A Staff Correspondent of the Post-Dispatch

PALM DESERT, Calif., Feb. 18 — President Johnson and Eisenhower discussed in Washington early today after a weekend busy of military talent, and briefing a Republican conference on the developments in the Vietnam War.

Mr. Johnson and former President Eisenhower held a conference on the Vietnam War yesterday on the implications of the first and second wave of Viet Cong assaults against the cities of South Vietnam. They discussed the situation in Korea, the ship Pueblo and its crew from North Korea.

Mr. Eisenhower and Mr. Johnson's military advisers met in the winter home Eisenhower occupies along the edge of palm-studded fairway at the El Dorado Country Club. It was only about 35 holes of golf and a full golf at another private club.

Eisenhower approved this but

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Public Housing Trouble

26,000 Tr
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Increased

SECOND OF A SE

By ROBERT AD
of the Post-Dispatch

Caught in the middle of a crisis in public housing are the approximately 26,000 tenants in the city. And the storm may be worse before it quiets.

Tenants, officials in City's rent increases are in their wars, officials say. Some of the rents are known to be considerably or increase — possibly a month — to pull up out of the red.

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Where Plane Hit School Building

By a Post-Dispatch Photo

Wreckage of a single-engine plane resting on a canopy of the McCluer High School gymnasium

Calder, Snow In Next 5 Days

Forecast for St. Louis and vicinity for the next five days: Temperatures will average 8 to 12 degrees below seasonal normals.

The weather will be cool daily in the week and becomes colder toward the weekend. Light rain or snow is expected in the middle of the week. Normal rainfall for the month of February is 3.75 inches.

Davis Enters Race for Senate

By FRED W. LINDSLEY
State Political Correspondent of the Post-Dispatch

ST. JOSEPH, Feb. 19 — W. Dorsey D., usually by his initials, W. D., officially announced his candidacy for the Democratic nomination for the United States Senate from Missouri.

His announcement created a new situation in the Democratic primary. Democrats who had to decide whether to support incumbent Senator Edward V. Long or challenger Lt. Gov. Thomas F. Eagleton, now were confronted with a third major candidate in the field.

Davis, who is a new gubernatorial aspirant, is the more far state clear that one main plank in his campaign would be that one of the United States Senators from Missouri should be from the western side of the state.

In an interview, Davis said he did not hesitate to run against Long even though he has been a friend of the Senator has indicated for federal appointments.

"The Democratic p
serves the best candid
but the Republicans
Davis said. Davis, who
nominated Gov. Ho
Long as the vendee o
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United States Repre

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