

# Engine problem on Nelson's plane reported

DE KALB, Texas (AP) — The DC-3 that crashed and killed singer Rick Nelson and six others had engine trouble before its last flight, and one member of Nelson's band had talked of quitting because he didn't trust the plane, friends and relatives said Wednesday.

Nelson, 45, who became known to millions of Americans as a youngster on his family's "Adventures of Ozzie and Harriet" TV series, was flying with his fiancée and five members of his band from Alabama to Dallas for a New Year's Eve concert when the plane crashed near this northeast Texas town.

The pilot and co-pilot survived and were hospitalized with burns, with the pilot in fair condition and the co-pilot critical.

National Transportation Safety Board Chairman Jim Burnett said Wednesday investigators were unsure if the fire that consumed the wreckage was ignited before the plane clipped power lines and crashed into a pasture. Witnesses reported smoke trailing from the plane.

"In aviation, smoke does not always indicate fire," Burnett said at a news confer-

ence. Nelson and his band had appeared Monday at PJ's Lounge in Guntersville, Ala., and took off Tuesday afternoon.

Lynn Upton, wife of PJ's co-owner Pat Upton, a former member of Nelson's Stone Canyon band, said Nelson had trouble with the DC-3 on his flight from Orlando, Fla., to Guntersville. The trouble reappeared Tuesday.

"They were having trouble with the left engine. It wouldn't crank over," Mrs. Upton said. "Everyone was concerned over this one engine. Pat asked that they stay and fly out of Huntsville (on a commercial flight)."

Mrs. Upton said the pilots "worked on the engine and felt better about it. Rick felt he had to be there (Dallas) for the show."

Burnett said he could not confirm that the plane had mechanical trouble.

The Federal Aviation Administration's flight service in Anniston, Ala., said the plane was registered to Century Equipment Co. of Los Angeles. Telephone calls to the company Wednesday went unanswered.

Laurel Barzic, sister-in-law of band member Andy Chapin, 30, who died in the crash, said from Los Angeles the DC-3 had developed a problem with one of its engines about a month ago and Chapin was afraid to fly in it.

"He didn't want to go on that airplane," she told the Dallas Morning News. "He complained and complained for months. He was going to quit the job because he didn't want to go on that plane."

Barzic said Chapin had told her "that it was a bad plane. He didn't trust it. He always talked to my husband about it, that he didn't trust the airplane, that all the guys felt the same, in the band."

Burnett said authorities had not been able to talk to either of the two survivors. The accident occurred on the last day of the deadliest year ever for commercial aviation, in which almost 2,000 people died.

It also was the 50th anniversary of the debut of the DC-3, a twin-engine plane designed for early passenger flights and World War II transport that has survived in private and regional airline service around the world.

Nelson's manager, Oscar Arslanian, said in Los Angeles funeral arrangements had not yet been completed. His older brother, David, was flying to Texas Wednesday, but his mother, Harriet, was not. Nelson's father, Ozzie, died of cancer in 1975.

In Los Angeles, David Levine, president of the Promark production company, urged 103 television stations not to show a one-hour syndicated special that was to begin broadcasting Wednesday night entitled "Rick Nelson and Fats Domino Live." He said Harriet Nelson had asked Promark to try to stop the show.

Besides Jack Nelson and Chapin, the dead were identified as Nelson's fiancée, Helen Blair, 27; band members Bobby Nunn, 38, Patrick Woodward, 35, Rick Intveld, 22, and Clark Russell, 35, who was the sound man.

Retired publicist Leo Zabelin, who had worked with Rick Nelson, said 1985 was the singer's best year in two decades.

"He was a remnant of the '60s, a holdover whose time had finally come again," Zabelin said.

## 8 Americans, 2 Chileans die when plane crashes on Antarctic island

PUNTA ARENAS, Chile (AP) — Eight American tourists flying to Antarctica to celebrate New Year's Eve died along with two Chilean crewmen when their plane passed a fog-shrouded landing strip and crashed.

There were no survivors in Tuesday's crash on Nelson Island, 4 degrees north of the Antarctic Circle and six miles from a Chilean air base on King George Island, the charter plane's destination.

Helicopter pilots with the Chilean air force found 10 bodies in the wreckage of the twin-engine Cessna Titan 404 on Nelson Island Tuesday evening, said Felipe Molina, a spokesman for the Aeroperel charter company, which owned the plane.

The Americans, all men, chartered the plane from Punta Arenas, Chile's southernmost city, to Lt. Marsh Base, an air force installation in the South Shetland Islands in Antarctic territory, Molina said. The base has a 40-room lodge that is used by the Chilean government to promote tourism.

They left the United States Dec. 21 and spent Christmas in the lake district of southern Chile, according to Hanns

Ebensten of Hanns Ebensten Travel Inc. of Key West, Fla., which arranged the tour.

A telex from the Chilean air force's tour office told the Americans to bring formal suits for a New Year's Eve dinner. Ebensten told the Associated Press by telephone from Key West.

The trip called for a 48-hour stay at the Chilean air base, said Molina.

"They were all looking forward to this tremendously," Ebensten said. "It was to be something really special. It was the first time that any one of them would have been in Antarctica."

Most of the Americans had previously traveled to other remote places, he said.

Employees at the Cape Horn Hotel in Punta Arenas said the group had arrived from Argentina on Saturday, and was to have flown to Antarctica on Monday. But the flight was delayed because of bad weather.

Ebensten identified the dead Americans as: Ben Callis, 33, Key West; Irving Lambrecht, 63, retired, Los Angeles; Wayne Riddle, 61, engineer, Buchanan, Mich.; Tim Lang, 33, petroleum manager, Carmichael,

Calif.; James M. Jasper, 56, librarian, Orchard, Calif.; Walter P. Michaux, 72, teacher, Columbus, Ohio; James C. Howell, 43, teacher, Yellow Springs, Ohio; and Paul R. Cox, 59, teacher, Brooklyn, N.Y.

Occupations for all but Callis were obtained from registration cards at the Cape Horn Hotel.

Aeroperel, which has been operating tourist flights to Antarctica for six years, said its general manager, Ivan Martinez Diaz, was piloting the plane and was killed along with the co-pilot, who was not identified.

Wendel Belew, a U.S. Embassy spokesman in Santiago, said a consular officer was en route to the base from Punta Arenas to confirm the victims' identities and accompany their bodies to the Chilean mainland.

Molina said the pilot made an approach to the Lt. Marsh Base's year-round air strip, but couldn't land because of fog. Molina said the pilot informed the base by radio that he would try again, but radio contact was lost as the plane disappeared from view.

## West Virginia inmates free hostages in return for meeting with governor

MOUNDSVILLE, W.Va. (UPI) — About 200 inmates holding 13 hostages in a wing of the West Virginia State Penitentiary agreed Thursday to release their hostages unharmed in return for a meeting with Gov. Arch Moore to discuss their demands for better living conditions, officials said.

John Price, press secretary to Moore, said an oral agreement was reached with the prisoners. Part of the agreement was for the inmates to meet with news reporters in the visitors' room at the maximum security prison, he said.

Price said the conditions of the oral agreement also included a promise that the prisoners would be allowed to meet with the governor at an unannounced date, and that there would be no reprisals against the inmates involved in the uprising itself.

The agreement does not rule out action against any inmates involved in the killing of inmate Kent Sile. Sile apparently died after being cut with pieces of glass.

As many as 200 inmates took over the south wing of the prison Wednesday night.

The prisoners took over the century-old institution Wednesday in rioting that claimed Sile's life.

Seventeen hostages were taken, but four were released before the oral agreement was reached with officials.

The last hostage released was Capt. Patrick Glasscock, who had relayed the prisoners' demands through a television network

### New York City Tribune resumes publication

NEW YORK (AP) — After a hiatus of more than four months, the New York City Tribune has resumed publication with a new format, though its conservative tone will remain unchanged.

Robert J. Morton, editor of the Manhattan-based daily, said the editors had changed the newspaper to reflect the findings of surveys that indicated readers preferred the Tribune's investigative and international reporting and its editorial pages to other features.

Wednesday night. Glasscock was taken by ambulance to a hospital, where his condition was not immediately known.

Price had said the inmates presented a list of 21 demands, including better food, better living conditions and more recreation time.

One hundred police officers surrounded the prison but had made no move to rescue the hostages.

Wendy Henderson, wife of hostage Bill Henderson, said her husband called their home Thursday and gave a babysitter a grim message:

"If they storm the place, someone will die. We are all separated. Give my love to the kids."

The inmates originally took 17 hostages. Price said an unidentified woman was freed "almost immediately" after the riot broke out in the prison dining hall about 5:30 p.m. Wednesday.

One guard, Michael Coleman, was released near midnight because he has high blood pressure. Coleman was hospitalized in stable condition.

### news update

#### Slain naturalist buried

MONT VISOKE, Rwanda (AP) — Slain American naturalist Dian Fossey, who for 18 years studied and befriended the rare mountain gorillas who live on this dormant volcano, has been buried in a cemetery she built for gorillas killed by poachers.

The burial in the gorilla cemetery near her remote research station was in accordance with the wish of Fossey, 53, who was hacked to death last week by an unidentified assailant who broke into her cottage of corrugated tin.

Fossey, credited with getting the endangered mountain gorillas accustomed to the presence of humans, said she had come to love the gentleness and dignity of the 50 or so apes around her camp and preferred their company to that of people.

#### Freed American dies

CHICAGO (AP) — An American businessman released eight months ago from a Mexican prison after his family's three-year battle to free him is dead of heart disease, an attorney says.

Richard J. Flynn died at his suburban Riverdale home, said Susan Keegan, an attorney who worked on his case.

Flynn, 50, suffered three heart attacks during his 37-month imprisonment in Mexico, said family spokeswoman Pat Miller. After returning to the United States in April, he was diagnosed as having congestive heart failure and severe coronary artery disease.

The business executive was freed last spring after the Mexican Supreme Court overturned his 1982 fraud conviction and six-year sentence.

#### Soldier found dead near railroad tracks

WUERZBURG, Germany — A 3rd Inf Div soldier was found dead near Kitzingen at about 1:30 p.m. Wednesday.

The soldier's body was seen near the south-bound railroad tracks between Kitzingen and the adjacent town of Buchbrunn by a train passenger who notified German police, division spokesman Maj. Bob MacKenzie said.

The soldier's name is being withheld until relatives can be notified.

The extent of injuries and the cause of death have not been determined, he said. The death is being investigated.