

Accident Fatal To Frank A. Pierce

Industrialist Dies After Air Crash

Injuries sustained in an airplane crash resulted in the death of Frank Reynolds Pierce, 49, president of Dearborn Motors Inc., of Detroit, Mich., at a hospital here late yesterday.

Mrs. Pierce and four others sustained severe but not grave injuries in the crash of the Dearborn company's Grumman amphibian aircraft Wednesday afternoon at Charlotte Municipal Airport.

died, as also did Miss Nancy Joel Pierce, the only daughter of the fatally injured automotive executive and Mrs. Pierce. Miss Pierce attends a school in Boston.

Arrangements were being made this morning to escort Mr. Pierce's body to Birmingham, Mich., a suburb of Detroit, for the funeral and burial services. Friends of the family said that Mrs. Pierce had recovered sufficiently to make the trip to the Michigan city and attend these services.

A group of executives of Dearborn Motors Inc., tractor and farm implement marketing subsidiary of Ford Motor Co., also came to Charlotte yesterday. Heading this group was Thomas Ferrell, vice-president. They were met by J. R. Surtman of Charlotte, president of Carolina Ford Tractor Co., distributor of the Dearborn lines of equipment.

The body is at Harry & Bryant Funeral Home.

Mr. Pierce became president of Dearborn Motors in 1946. Previously he had been a vice-president of General Motors Corp. and of Nash-Kelvinator Corp.

OTHERS RECOVERING

Meantime, the others injured in this accident, remained in Charlotte Memorial Hospital and were reported to be making satisfactory recovery.

Mr. and Mrs. Pierce and their pilots were accompanied by Agriculture Secretary Brannan on a flight from Detroit to Nashville, N. C., where the Secretary and Mr. Pierce addressed an agricultural meeting Tuesday. The Grumman Mallard plane and its passengers were en route to Columbia, S. C., to return Mr and Mrs. Johnston to their home, when it crashed on take-off in mid-afternoon Wednesday.

Among them were Mr and Mrs. Latta Johnston of Columbia, S. C. Mr. Johnston is a representative of R. S. Dickson & Co., Charlotte securities dealer. Mrs. Johnston is a sister of Mrs. George Denny and Miss Helen Smith, both of 2122 Sarah Marks Ave., Charlotte.

Reports said that Mrs. Johnston's condition today was good and that she was making a rapid recovery, but Mr. Johnston, more severely injured, was slowly improving in condition. His injuries were described as painful but not dangerous.

W. J. Bergman, pilot, and George Findley, co-pilot, both of Detroit, were reported to be rapidly recovering.

Tentative arrangements were made for the party escorting the body of Mr. Pierce to leave here Sunday morning, when Mrs. Pierce, it is expected, will have recovered sufficiently to return to her home city.

Frank Pierce Jr. of Columbus, Ohio, and his wife arrived here yesterday shortly before his father

Alexander Graham Junior High School Exercises Is Commenced

Penny Smith, vice-president of the Alexander Graham Junior High School Student Council and president of the Honor Society, was awarded the PTA Citizenship award at final exercises held at the school yesterday.

The award was presented by Sammy Williams, president of the Student Council, for the PTA of which Mrs. H. S. McIntyre is president.

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