

WOMAN KILLED IN FALL OF AIRBOAT

Aged Mrs. Comstock Dies in Her Initial Flight "Before Retiring to Quiet Life"

San Diego, Cal., Dec. 17.—Expressing the desire to "fly once more before retiring to a quiet life," Mrs. Lulu Comstock, a 74-year-old resident of this city, arranged for a flight with Aviator Anton Meyerhoff Jr., that ended yesterday with the falling of the flying boat in the waters of San Diego Bay and the death of the woman.

Mrs. Comstock previous to the beginning of the flight declared that she wished to be taken to a height of at least 1500 feet. Within a few minutes after the flight had started, according to the story told by Meyerhoff, Mrs. Comstock was seized with a convulsion, and, reaching out, grabbed the aviator in a firm grasp.

Meyerhoff says he struggled desperately to free himself so he could control the machine, but that before he could release himself from the woman's grasp the flying boat, which was about 50 feet in the air, turned over and fell into the waters of the bay. The force of the impact with the water completely wrecked the flying boat.

Meyerhoff and Mrs. Comstock were hurled clear of the wreckage and rescue parties brought both to shore. Mrs. Comstock was dead.

Physicians who examined her body said her neck, one leg, one arm and her shoulder were broken. Meyerhoff escaped with a few scratches on the face.

Mrs. Comstock had been a resident of San Diego for a number of years. She is survived by a grown son and daughter.

TRANSLATING A SONG INTO WORDS

(By William T. Ellis.)

A world-conquering missionary crusade was inaugurated by the angelic host on that first Christmas morn. The angels have returned to heaven, but they have left to men the duty of repeating their refrain. This Christmas gospel is to be proclaimed every day and everywhere by all who believe on the Lord Jesus Christ.

Somehow, thoughts of Christmas enlarge the borders of one's neighborhood. It is not easy to be narrow or provincial on Christmas Day. That world-transforming event, in old Judea's little town of Bethlehem, was too big for any province or country or planet to claim. Even the stars in their courses felt it; and the silent heavens jubilate their immemorial stillness to jubilate over it. We recall that it was because "God so loved the world"—not merely Palestine, or the chosen people, or that particular century, that He gave to all mankind its first Christmas Gift—a Babe who should for all time and in realms personally man's brotherhood and God's love.

Christmas is God's definition of love for man.

He is sharing the work of the Christmas angels who by any means is telling the world that God loves it.

Christ Himself came, "Not to be ministered unto, but to minister;" and He puts the same spirit into the hearts of His loyal followers. Not get, but give, is the royal law. To-day the world is filled with a shining company of men and women who are following in the train of Jesus, and spending themselves, as best they know how, in labor for the welfare of their fellow men. Every "Red Cross Stamp" that appears on a Christmas tree is but an expression of this spirit. So are all the thousands of Christmas dinners that will be given to the poor. So are the wide-reaching ministrations of foreign missions. So are the multitude of altruistic activities which, though they are not labeled with the name of Christ, are yet born of His Spirit.

There was light for all the world in the shining of the Christmas star. Christ's coming was not merely into the Holy Land. He came into all the world. True, much of His coming must be on the feet of His disciples, but that is part of the Christmas message. The greatest truth of this day is a missionary truth.

"When the shoemaker of Antwerp came to die, And in fear and trembling faced the Lord most high, To the question stern and awful, 'What is thy hope?' he answered, 'For the King of earth and heaven done below!'"

"Lord," he answered, "others serve Thee, I alone. Have no talent naught to offer at Thy throne; Only this one thing to Thee, Lord, dare I tell; I have pleased the children, and they loved me well."

"Come the sudden wondrous shining of the smile that lights the skies, As the King of My vineyard rise! Though thou didst it for the children, thou has done it unto Me. While a child on earth is living, thou thy living spirit shall be!"

The Christmas spirit is winning dominion over an increasing number of individual hearts daily, and in that sure and irresistible way, Christmas is conquering the world.

Great gifts are common nowadays. A babe, living a normal life, performing a divine ministry, and giving a blessing that no man can read of a ten million dollar bequest to charity with only languid interest. Mr. Carnegie alone has given away \$460,000,000. There is nothing new or sensational in the practice. Instinctively, the normal person realizes that the greatest gift is not of money, no matter how vast it may be. The benefactor which counts for most is the gift of a life. Only life can meet life's needs. God might have sent a new philosophy into the world to redeem the race, or a new order of things, society, or a new law on fresh tables of stone. But His way was better. He sent the best that heaven held of life—His own nature, personified in His Son, born as vicarious death. Jesus brought life that men might have it, and have it more abundantly.

"Thy life of which our veins are scant, Life, more life, and fuller that we want."

God made no mistake in His Christmas gift, and gave us the greatest possible blessing when He gave us Christ.—James H. Snowden.

Peace prevails where the Christmas spirit rules.

"Look on all His gifts around thee— gifts that make it joy to live; Best of all, the royal kindness! He has given the power to give. He has filled thy hands with blessings which He bids thee scatter wide; Calls thee friend, and not His servant— friend to labor at His side."

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