



DOWN HE COMES — Phillip (Pee Wee) Jones of Clemmons, who is a stock car driver, slowly descends from a plane which landed in tall trees in rural Davie

County Sunday. Jones first lowered his three young sons to safety before he abandoned the craft. (Post Staff Photo by Miller)

Plane Lands In Tree, Man, Three Sons Saved

By RALPH MILLER

MOCKSVILLE — A Forsyth County man and his three young sons escaped injury when an airplane piloted by the man belly-landed in the top of tall trees in rural Davie County Sunday afternoon.

It was a touch-and-go situation for about an hour until rescue workers finally lowered the last of the four safely to the ground following the 12:15 p.m. freak accident near the Twin Lakes Airport on the Fork-Bixby Road.

Rescued after the hour-long ordeal were Phillip (Pee Wee) Jones of Clemmons and his three sons, Timothy, 9; Michael, 5; and Stephen, 4.

C. B. Siedel, supervising inspector, general aviation district office of Federal Aviation Agency, talked to Jones after the accident.

Siedel quoted Jones as saying that he had gone to the airport and rented the plane, a 1967 model 150 Cessna, and had made three previous landings at the airport that day.

However, on the fourth landing approach to the dirt strip, the plane engine failed and the plane landed in the top of tall trees across the street from the field.

The plane came to rest in the tree tops, about 50 feet off the ground, almost directly behind the residence of "Scrip" Robinson.

Ray Tart of High Point, who had rented the same plane earlier in the day and who observed

the craft when it went down, ran to the site about 200 yards from the end of the airfield.

"It looked to me like he had too high a power and he started to go back up to make another approach," Tart said.

"But the flaps were down and there wasn't enough air speed and it stalled out."

Tart said he and four others quickly ran to the scene.

"I yelled up and asked is anyone was hurt and Pee Wee said no. I told him to pitch the kids out if the plane caught fire and we would do our best to catch them," Tart explained.

"I ran then reminded him to make sure all the switches were off and he yelled down to me that all the switches already had been turned off."

The plane swayed slowly, slightly nose down, as the aviation fuel poured from the engine and soaked into the ground directly beneath the craft.

Davie County Rescue Squad personnel and Fort Volunteer Fire Department members quickly arrived at the scene.

Volunteers climbed trees adjacent to the trees which held the craft perched at the precarious angle. Braided nylon ropes were tossed to Jones.

Then began the slow, tedious job of tying the rope end around each child, and carefully lowering each boy to the arms of the rescue workers.

Jones was the last to leave the craft.

As he stepped outside the craft and prepared to be lowered the plane swayed dangerously. However, the

supporting tree tops held as he quickly was lowered to the ground.

CROWDS ARRIVE

Spectors arrived at the accident scene early.

State highway patrolmen had to block off the driveway entrance of Robinson's residence to prevent spectators' cars from blocking emergency vehicle traffic using the route.

A rope barricade was quickly erected in the woods and spectators were kept behind it as rescue efforts were underway.

Local JC's To Sell Safety Flares

The local Jaycees will be selling safety flares Friday, September 12, in the Cooleemee Shopping Center beginning at 6 p.m.

Larry Cope, chairman of the safety flares committee, has announced that a Jaycee will be on hand at most of the local service stations as well as the business establishments in the shopping center.

Proceeds will go to the community development program. Support your Jaycees and community by participating in a worthwhile cause which could be a live saver.

Cooleemee Journal

62nd Year
No. 36

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 10, 1969
COOLEEMEE, N.C.

16 Pages
10 Cents

A Burglar Alarm But No Burglar

What causes a burglar alarm to go off, when there is no burglar?

Well, they still haven't found the answer at the Cooleemee Super Market.

The burglar alarm went off Sunday morning shortly after 11 a.m. and within minutes there were witnesses looking for supposedly a burglar.

Several law officers then arrived to check over the situation and after about 30 minutes, were thoroughly convinced there was no evidence of a break-in, but the alarm still sounded.

By this time, the employees at Ridenhour's Florist, who had worked most of Saturday night and were hard at it on Sunday morning due to several local deaths, were all but pulling their hair out.

Verdie Cornatzer, an employee at the Super Market, has a key, but was out of town. Of course no one could expect him to sit home and wait for the alarm to go off.

Finally Charles Bean caught Jimmy Steele as he was leaving Church.

Good ol' Jim — he stopped that racket in a hurry.

The law officers accompanied him into the store and after a thorough search could find no trace of an attempt to break in.

The alarm had sounded for about an hour and curious people began to gather in the shopping center, but what triggered the alarm is still a mystery.

One of the officers commented that it might be a good idea for the local merchants to leave an extra key at the sheriff's office for such emergencies.

In any case it was rather exciting around here Sunday morning.

PTA To Meet

The first PTA meeting of the year will be held Monday, September 15, at 7:30 p.m. at the Cooleemee School Auditorium.

Rev. Robert Frost, pastor of the Liberty and Concord United Methodist Churches will be guest speaker.

Immediately following the short informal meeting, there will be a hospitality hour in the school cafeteria and everyone is invited to stay for the refreshments and fellowship.

Publicity chairman Scotty Vogler has also announced this meeting will be the kick-off for this years membership drive.



What A Way To Travel

Little Julie Setzer, 20 months, thinks this is the only way to travel. And her daddy, Ward Setzer, gets a pretty good workout in the process.

Mr. Setzer says Julie loves to ride in the basket and will stay in it for hours. He intends to ride her until she will no longer fit into the basket.