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# 22 SAVED IN CRASH BY AURORA PILOT

—STORY ON PAGE 5

# Pilot From Aurora Saves 22 In Pueblo Crash Landing

All 22 persons, including a Denver man, aboard a crippled plane escaped unhurt in an emergency landing at Pueblo Saturday.

And the skill of the plane's Aurora pilot won special praise. He is Capt. Jim Langhofer.

Langhofer "did a beautiful job of landing the plane safely," said James H. Bruce of 4598 Grove st., a passenger.

The Frontier Airlines plane, its left engine dead, swooped in under a high-tension power line and ground to a safe stop on its belly in a field.

Langhofer first detected trouble after the plane took off from Pueblo for Grand Junction.

Rather than take a chance of fire breaking out in the engine, he feathered the propeller and wheeled the plane, to get back to the Pueblo airport.

He then realized the plane wouldn't make it that far and

looked for an emergency landing spot.

The disabled ship shot under a 69,000-volt power line crossing a deep ravine. Langhofer put the tail down and let it drag for about a half mile before bringing the plane into a belly landing.

Luckily, Langhofer escaped injury when part of one propeller sliced into the cockpit where he had been sitting.

His copilot was Don Lockwood and the stewardess was Jody Lohse, both of Denver.

Doctors were called to examine the passengers, but apparently none was injured, the Associated Press reported.

Langhofer, who attended Colorado College at Colorado Springs for two years, is a former U.S. Navy pilot. He also took part in the Berlin airlift, and received the Air Medal for his performance.

Lockwood was graduated from Westminster High School. Miss Lohse was graduated from South High, and attended Colorado A&M for two years.

Just 10 minutes before the mishap, a small plane piloted by Frederick W. Haver Jr. of Pueblo made an emergency

landing on the prairie west of Pueblo when an engine failed.

Haver and his wife were unhurt. They said they saw the Frontier plane make its forced landing.

Another Frontier plane was flown to Pueblo from Denver to pick up the passengers and take them on to Grand Junction. Ten of the passengers continued their journey via the replacement plane, a company official said.

# Passengers Praise Pilot in Pueblo Crash

(See story on page 1 also)

Denver Post Special

PUEBLO, Aug. 23.—Passengers who rode a Frontier Air Lines DC3 to a crash landing west of the airport here Saturday afternoon praised the quick-thinking and coolness of the pilot for getting them safely to earth.

Hero of what missed being a major tragedy by inches was Capt. Jim Langhofer, 33, of 2275 Lima St., Aurora, former Navy pilot and a veteran of 11,000 hours flying time.

None of the 19 passengers or three crewmen suffered more than minor scratches and a severe shaking up. Except for the right engine, which tore loose as the transport skidded to a stop, the plane was not badly damaged.

## PILOT LAUDED

"We all want to commend the pilot for a wonderful job," said James H. Bruce of 4598 Grove St., a salesman. "There was no panic in the plane before, during or after the crash."

Langhofer and the copilot, Second Officer Don Lockwood, 26, of 4569 W. 52nd Ave., had a busy time of it as they cut the power on the left engine when the fire warning flashed shortly after takeoff, then had to cut off the right engine a few moments later.

The pilot guided the plane under a string of high tension wires and over a gully before putting it down for a belly landing a mile west of the airport. He estimated the plane had between 50 and 75 feet altitude when trouble developed.

The stewardess, Jody Lohse, 25, of 1316 Columbine St., said

the fact all passengers had their seat belts buckled averted serious injury. Miss Lohse said she had just taken her seat and buckled her belt after seeing the passengers were all right, when the plane crashed.

## CAMERA FAN BUSY

Langhofer was the first one out of his seat after the crash and beat the stewardess to the main door at the rear. An escape hatch in the left side of the plane was also opened and several passengers took that way out.

Among them were Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Dorough of 5985 Dover St., Arvada, who were bound for Gunnison and a two-day holiday. Dorough went out the escape hatch first and his wife followed.

Mrs. Dorough said as she crawled through the hatch she saw her husband, a camera fan, snapping pictures of her escape.

Lockwood, who celebrated his sixth wedding anniversary Saturday, had a narrow escape when a blade of the right propeller tore loose, sliced through the fuselage and cut a deep gash in the back of his copilot's seat.

The crash landing occurred at 12:06 p. m., a few minutes after the plane, bound from Denver to Grand Junction by way of Pueblo, took off.

Three fire engines from the airport went to the scene but there was no fire.

The three crew members are all graduates of high schools in the Denver area. Langhofer attended North, Lockwood Westminster and Miss Lohse South.



PILOT JIM LANGHOFER  
Came in on one engine.



JODY LOHSE  
Seat belts helped a lot.