

Incident Summary Page for the Smokejumper Line of Duty Death

Name of Smokejumper LODD: Dale R Swedeen (MSO-61)	Incident Name: Cochrane Gulch Fire
	Incident Date & Time: July 8, 1961
Smokejumper Base: Missoula	Incident Location: Helena National Forest, Montana
Personal Information	
<p>A native of Sioux Falls, South Dakota, Dale attended high school in Rapid City, South Dakota, then graduated from Kubasaki High School in Okinawa Japan. Prior to the accident, he had attended South Dakota State University and the University of South Dakota where he had been a Radio/TV major. After the accident, in 1964, he moved to Florida where he completed his education, receiving a degree in Nursing Home Administration. He later moved to Mesa, Arizona in 1989, where he owned a hair salon and died at the age of 53.</p> <p>Dale was a member of the Lutheran Church and Phi Delta Theta fraternity and served with the Civil Air Patrol from which he retired as a Major. He was survived by his family and is buried in Larchwood, Iowa.</p>	
Brief description	
<p>Dale died May 1st 1992 due to complications of paralysis injuries. He broke his back while making his first fire jump when his parachute oscillated and he hit a rock.</p> <p>Rendered a paraplegic at age 22, Dale received care and rehabilitation treatment at the Rusk Institute in New York City and lived 30+ years with his injuries while confined to wheelchair.</p>	
Links to more information on this incident:	
https://wlfalwaysremember.net/1992/05/01/dale-swedeen/	



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Forest Smokejumper Is Injured

Kuwait Danger Passes, Brits Remove Troops

Kuwait —(AP)— The commander of British Middle East forces said Saturday Iraq's immediate military threat to this oil-rich sheikdom has passed.

"From now on my responsibility is to keep a minimum force sufficient to protect Kuwait's independence and security," Air Marshal Sir Charles Elworthy told a news conference.

Elworthy, who arrived earlier to supervise further cuts in British defense units, declined to estimate what the minimum will be. But informed sources believe the original 5,000-man British contingent soon can be reduced to a skeleton headquarters unit plus a few hundred men to keep communication lines open and to maintain equipment reserves.

Friday night two companies of the crack Coldstream Guard totaling 250 men were flown to Bahrain, the British island here in the Persian Gulf about 300 miles southeast of Kuwait City.

The withdrawal came less than a day after completion of the British troop build-up initiated a week ago when Kuwait's ruling sheik—Abdullah as-Salam as-Sabah—asked protection from an annexation claim voiced by Iraqi Premier Abdel Karim Kassem.

State Consumes 1.16 Gallons of Liquor Per Person in Year

Billings —(AP)— Montana's Liquor Control Board sells enough hard liquor in one year to supply every resident of the state with 1.16 gallons.

Ashton Jones of Broadus, a board member, also told a Billings service club there are 2.7 bars for each 1,000 people in Montana, compared with the national average of .64 per 1,000.

Helicopter Lands in Parking Lot



MERCY FLIGHT LANDS IN HOSPITAL LOT—A Johnson Flying Service of Missoula helicopter is shown landing in the parking lot of St. Peter's Hospital shortly before 8 o'clock Saturday night. It rushed Dale R. Swedeen, 22, Sioux Falls, S.D., Forest Service smokejumper, who was injured in a drop on a blaze in the Cochran Gulch area at the southern end of the Gates of the Mountains. Swedeen was rushed to surgery immediately for a back injury. Forestry officials announced that Swedeen was injured when he

hit the ground and his oscillating parachute dragged him into a large boulder. He was one of 16 jumpers dropped on the blaze which was controlled early Saturday night. The injured smokejumper made the trip from the fire to the hospital in a stretcher strapped to the side of the helicopter. Notice the shadow of the helicopter on the hospital building cast by the setting sun at the time of the landing. Another photo on Page 3. (Photo by Les Jorud)

'Copter Brings Victim to Hospital Here

A Forest Service smokejumper, one of 16 dropped Saturday on a lightning-caused fire northeast of Helena, was injured and brought to a Capital City hospital by helicopter.

The Johnson Flying Service whirlybird from Missoula set down in the parking area of St. Peter's Hospital shortly before 8 p.m., with the injured man strapped in an outside stretcher.

Dr. Little Aids

Dr. A. R. Little, Jr., Helena, former military paratrooper, was in the aircraft's open cockpit with the pilot.

The 'copter touched down two short blocks from Last Chance Gulch, Helena's main street, just long enough for the smokejumper to be removed and rushed into the hospital.

The Forest Service said the injured jumper was Dale R. Swedeen, 22, of Sioux Falls, S.D. He is studying radio and television at the University of South Dakota. His mother resides at Valdosta, Georgia.

Swedeen suffered "a back injury but we don't know how serious it is," Vernon O. Hamre of Helena, an official of the federal agency, reported at 11 p.m.

The injury happened as Swedeen hit the ground, he said. His parachute was oscillating and he apparently struck a large boulder in the afternoon leap.

The helicopter was called from Missoula. It picked up Dr. Little in Helena and went to the accident scene at the southern end of the Gates of the Mountains wilderness area, Hamre said.

Fire in Cochran Gulch

The fire was in Cochran Gulch near Nilson in the Gates of the Mountains area where 12 smokejumper and a fire guard were caught and burned fatally on a Mann Gulch slope Aug. 5, 1949.

Saturday's blaze burned 35 to 40 acres before it was brought under control about 6:30 p.m. In addition to the smokejumpers from Missoula, three plane loads of bentonite were dumped on the blaze which also was fought by a ground crew of about 60 men.

Winds Hit Wyoming

Powell, Wyo. —(AP)— A severe windstorm swept the Powell area of northern Wyoming Saturday night. Gusts of wind as strong as 80 to 85 miles an hour were recorded at the airport.

Friend of Kids s Going Business

By Charles Aweeka

A 17-year-old ice cream peddler could become the youngest businessman ever to be admitted to the Helena Chamber of Commerce.

Robert A. Worcester, who was 17 July 1, is deadly serious about joining.

"I want to see Helena grow, and I want to do everything that I can to make it grow."

Rakes in \$20 a Day.

MacArthur Returns to Cebu

By Carl Zimmerman
Cebu, Philippines — (AP) — General of the Army Douglas MacArthur sailed into Cebu Harbor Sunday and added a personal touch to his nostalgic tour of the Philippines with a call on an old friend.

The young republic's second largest city produced another tumultuous welcome for the man who led the liberation forces in World War II. Gaily decorated outrigger canoes escorted his ship into port.

Then MacArthur, 81, rode off in a motorcade to call on former

They waded ashore together at Leyte Island in 1944 at the start of the liberation and MacArthur immediately declared the powers of the Philippine commonwealth restored under Osmena.

Old Friends

In prewar years, Osmena was vice president while MacArthur was military adviser to the commonwealth with the rank of field marshal.

They were together in the last

desperate stand of U.S. and Philippine forces on Corregidor in 1942, both escaping before the surrender.

MacArthur arrived Sunday on President Carlos P. Garcia's yacht Lapu Lapu after an overnight cruise from Leyte.

Saturday at Leyte, MacArthur described his landing there 17 years ago as "the turning point of the war." The landing launched his successful campaign for liberation of the Philippines.

New 60 and Gray

Mercy Flight

Early Whirlybird Serves As Helena 'Alarm Clock'

By Gladys LeFors

Residents of Helena and vicinity startled from sleep at about 6:10 a.m., may have first thought they heard a flying alarm clock. If so, they need not fear an imminent psychiatric consultation.

The sound was made by an Air Force helicopter from Malmstrom AFB in Great Falls on a mercy flight. It was circling Helena at low altitude in an effort to set down on the parking area of St. Peter's Hospital. Its mission was to take Dale R. Swedeen, Forest Service smokejumper, to Great Falls on the first leg of his journey to the Rusk Institute, New York City.

Swedeen, injured July 8 when he jumped on a fire in Cochran Gulch near Nelson in the Gates of the Mountains area, has been a patient at St. Peter's since that time. He was flown to the hospital by a Johnson Flying Service 'copter from Missoula, which landed on the parking area.

Landing Site Changed

Today's mercy flight whirlybird, unlike the one which brought Swedeen to Helena, was unable to land at the hospital because of its larger size. It therefore landed at the City-County Airport and took Swedeen aboard when he arrived by ambulance.

The Air Force chopper was in Helena about 20 minutes. From Great Falls, Swedeen will be flown by jet to New York for further treatment of the back injury sustained by the smokejumper when he hit the ground,

apparently striking a large boulder in the leap.

From Missoula

Called from Missoula, the Johnson Service 'copter picked up Dr. A. R. Little, Jr., here and then continued to the scene of the accident. It brought the victim to St. Peter's strapped to an outside stretcher on the open cockpit whirlybird.

Swedeen, 22, of Sioux City, S.D., is enrolled in the study of radio and television at the University of South Dakota. His mother resides in Georgia.

Cop Breaks Up Man's Sleep In Wrong Bed

Missoula —(P)— A Missoula man, returning home at a late hour, found his home block, and a familiar looking residence but the room door was locked. He broke a glass, entered and went to bed.

A few hours later, Joe Kellogg, returned home and found in his bed a strange man, whom Missoula police found sleeping accommodations the rest of the night.

Thursday In City Police Court, Richard Frederickson, 24, a Montana State University student, pleaded guilty before Judge Ray Fox to being intoxicated. Fox fined Frederickson \$15 and ordered him to pay for the broken door glass.

Smokejumper Hurt At Wolf Creek Shows Improvement

Dale Swedeen, 22, the Forest Service smokejumper injured in a jump on the Cochran Gulch fire near the Gates of the Mountains Saturday, was reported to be showing some improvement at St. Peter's Hospital this morning.

The radio and television student from the University of South Dakota received a spine injury with a possibility of permanent paralysis, according to doctors' reports. Swedeen is from Sioux Falls, S.D.

His injury here is the worst in the history of smokejumping. Floyd R. Cowles, assistant forest supervisor, told the Rotary Club Wednesday. He said that if Swedeen is paralyzed for life, the government insurance carried will provide him with some kind of total disability payments.

Condition of Injured Smokejumper Is Reported as Unchanged

Dale Swedeon, Forest Service smokejumper injured Saturday in a jump northeast of Helena in the Gates of the Mountains, was reported in unchanged condition this morning at St. Peter's Hospital. The lightning-caused fire, which covered approximately 40

acres, was reported to be in the mop-up stages.

The 22-year-old jumper, from Sioux Falls, S.D., was paralyzed from the waist down. Swedeon was hurt when his swaying parachute lines swung him against a boulder near a forest fire in the Gates area.

Swedeon was taken to St. Peter's Hospital by helicopter. The radio and television student at the University of South Dakota was one of 16 jumpers from the Forest Service northern region headquarters at Missoula who were dropped on the blaze.

It was the same area in which 12 smokejumpers and a fire guard were trapped and burned

fatally on a Mann Gulch slope Aug. 3, 1949.

A Johnson Flying Service helicopter from Missoula carried Swedeon practically to the door of the hospital, two short blocks from Last Chance Gulch, Helena's main street.

The attending physician, Dr. A. R. Little, Jr., Helena, former military paradoctor, was in the aircraft's open cockpit with the pilot.

Education Board Functions as Committees Today

Members of Montana's board of Education gathered for 15 minutes this morning before deciding to spend the rest of the morning in committee meetings.

One special committee dug into

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