

# Month's Search For Lost Aviator Ended

Body Found in Crystal Gulch on Kanarra Mountains, Six Miles South of the Spot Where Wrecked Plane Was Located.

An intensive search for Maurice Graham, the Western Air Express pilot who has been missing since Jan. 11, when he left Las Vegas for Salt Lake City, ended Wednesday, when his body was found in Crystal Gulch on Kanarra Mountain by George Edwards and Glen Beal of this city, who were members of a posse that had been searching in the Gulch locality for the week.

There were six men in the searching party, and they had just a short time before the discovery of the body, met and decided on covering another section of the country, separating from each other a short distance. Not long after the two finders mentioned, ran upon the body, with the other searchers a short distance away.

At the finding of the plane at least 15 searchers had passed within a few feet of the body without seeing it, due to the heavy underbrush which grows in that region.

The body was flat upon the ground and the head dropped to one side, indicating that Graham had lain down, tired from his wandering to find his way out, and had fallen asleep, succumbing to the intense cold that prevailed at the time he crashed on the mountain side with his plane.

The searchers, headed by Major McDonald, a brother-in-law of Graham's, made a survey of the pilot's belongings, revealing that he was wearing a regulation fur lined flying suit, fleece lined moccasins, red sweat-soaked Indian head woven on the top, a blue sweater with a plane emblem, blue trousers, rubber-topped boots, gray green lumberjack hat and his helmet. In his pocket were a gold watch, a personal log book with notations since he left the airport the night of January 11, a check book, auto license certificate, \$5 bill and a few \$1 bills, and a membership card of the Masonic order, of which he was a member.

The country where the body of Graham was found is extremely rough and rugged, and it was necessary to dig out the body and carry it out for a distance of six miles on horseback. At this point it was conveyed to Cedar City by auto.

The examination of the body showed that the unfortunate aviator had received an abrasion of the scalp, which probably happened when his plane struck his head striking the cowl of the machine as it landed. This evidently was a factor in weakening him, and his attempts to find a way out of the gulch, he probably slipped and fell

a distance from a huge rock, on which he had been according to tracks he had made, which added to his injury, forcing him to lay at the bottom of the gulch suffering until death came to relieve him. Major McDonald believes that Graham had wandered about for about three days before he succumbed to his injuries and the intense cold.

Major McDonald, Sheriff Leigh, Nat Gardner and the finders of the body, arrived in Cedar City with the remains about 5:30 p. m. Thursday afternoon. Shipping permit was secured from the local registrar of vital statistics, who issued same under instruction from the office of the State Registrar. The body was taken to the air port, where it was placed aboard a tri-motored plane driven by Fred Kelly, and taken to Los Angeles for interment. Mr. Kelley was accompanied on the trip to the coast city by Jimmy James, a close "pal" of Graham's and who has been energetic and constant in the search for the lost aviator since that fatal day, January 11.

The searching for Graham has been one of the most extensive ever carried on in the west, over fifty planes and hundreds of men on foot and horseback, have been used, in searching every nook and cranny of the country from Las Vegas north to Fillmore, West to the Bristol country in Nevada, and east over the scenic section of Iron and Kane Counties. The Pine Valley mountains have been searched time and time again, as it was believed that the aviator was forced on that mountain. Clues developed that led the searchers to believe that Graham had flown past Pine Valley, and drifted to Nevada in the neighborhood of Bristol. Flares had been noticed in the mountains near Fillmore and a search was made there. Jimmy James several times flew over the Kanarra Mountain section of Iron County, scanning every gulch, canyon, and hill side for a trace of the plane.

In June two Parowan boys while fencing on the Kanarra Mountain, discovered the plane and immediately notified the Western Air officials, who immediately instituted searching parties for the body of the aviator. Three weeks have passed and dozens of men employed who have scoured practically every foot of the country in a radius of twelve miles from the plane. It remained however, for George Edwards and Glen Beal, to accidentally stumble on the body, laying among thick underbrush at the foot of a huge boulder.