

Local Plane Makes Forced Landing Near Austin Train Wreck

An airplane from Trans-Air, Inc. at Freeman Field was forced to land in a muddy field about one mile north of Austin this morning because of engine trouble. The pilot of the plane was James Holmes of Trans-Air and Tom Conner, of the Seymour Daily Tribune staff, was riding as a passenger.

The pair had left Freeman Field a few minutes prior to the engine failure and were flying to Austin to get an aerial photograph of the Pennsylvania train wreck for The Tribune. Just before arriving on the scene the plane's engine "conked out" at an altitude of 500 feet.

Although much of the surrounding ground was covered by flood waters and the rest of the fields were mud-logged, Pilot Holmes was able to find a small dry knoll in a field adjoining U. S. 31 and ably brought the small plane down without damage and without injury to the occupants. The plane mired down in a soft spot in the field after rolling about 50 feet.

President of Trans-Air, Ed Beck, said it was the first forced landing because of engine failure that any of the company's planes had had since the firm's organization.

1951-01-17-Trans-Air plane makes forced landing

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Sun, Oct 9, 2016