

# **Aeroplane Falls;**

## **One Death**

The aeroplane which Ed Axberg, former army aviator of Enderlin, was using here last week, became unmanageable Sunday afternoon and fell, injuring the passenger, Brian Karr, so badly that he died about an hour later at the hotel where he had been taken. Axberg, who was in the rear seat of the machine, was unconscious when taken out, but soon recovered and directed the work of removing the other man.

Axberg had been giving the people short flights Saturday afternoon and Sunday, and the interest in the sport was so great that numbers of them were calling for the stunts, such as the loop, tail spin etc. When it came young Karr's time to ride he told the aviator to do everything he knew, saying he had plenty of money to pay for it. During the flight the loop was performed three times, and as they prepared to land the tail spin was given, and when Axberg attempted to right it, the wings would not respond, due he thinks to a gust of wind. He did not lose entire control of it until within 50 to 200 feet of the earth, according to varying estimates when the plane made a straight dive nose downward, striking with such force that the earth for some distance around, was shaken. There was absolutely no chance for the man in the front seat as the whole framework above simply gave way and crushed him onto the engine.

The aviator probably realized before the trip was begun that something was likely to happen for he told his assistant to not book any more orders for the stunts. Also while he was in the air the mechanic made the remark that the engine was not working right, and after the plane fell he said to Axberg, "Ed I thought you were too low when you started that tail spin."

Brian Karr was the youngest son of Alex Karr, promoter of Spiritwood Lake chautauqua. The elder Karr was notified of the accident at once and he and William Karr, an older son, came up in an auto and took the body to Courtenay to await the return of Mrs. Karr who was on her way to Canada via the Great Lakes.

There is no disposition to blame anybody or anything in particular for the accident, for it was bound to happen sooner or later. It is actually flirting with death to perform such stunts as the tail spin, and after seeing it once, we have come to the conclusion one might as well burn his insurance policy and kiss his family goodby if he intends to take a turn in one of them.