

NEWS DIGEST

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By The
Associated Press
Edited by Michelle Gamer

Two Freeman surrender to agents

JORDAN, Mont. — Two of the Freeman sought on federal fraud charges surrendered Thursday, driving a pickup truck out of the compound and turning themselves in to the FBI.

U.S. Attorney Sherry Scheel Matteucci identified the two as Ebert W. Stanton, 23, and Agnes B. Stanton, 52, both of Brusett, a small cross-roads about 15 miles outside the compound.

Their arrests leave at least 10 people inside the compound who are wanted on state or federal charges ranging from writing bad checks and impersonating public officials to threatening to kidnap and murder a U.S. district judge.

"We are continuing our efforts to resolve this situation peacefully," said Matteucci, who wouldn't comment on why the Stantons decided to surrender.

Reporters saw the pair taken away in handcuffs from a road outside the Freeman's heavily armed compound, which they call "Justus Township," and driven away in a government truck.

Federal agents blocked the road and prevented the media from following them. Their arraignment was scheduled in federal court at Billings at 11 a.m. Friday.

Both Stantons are charged with conspiracy, mail fraud and bank fraud in connection with the writing of at least \$19.5 million in bogus checks and money orders between August 1994 and December 1995.

Ebert Stanton is also charged with armed robbery for taking \$66,000 in equipment from an ABC television crew in October 1995. He also was charged with threatening public officials.

Agnes Stanton, Ebert's mother, is the wife of William Stanton, who serving time in prison after being convicted in February 1995 of advocating violence to further political aims.

The standoff began March 25 after the FBI arrested two Freeman leaders who had left the compound. The Stantons are the fourth and fifth people to leave the wheat farm since.

Ebert Stanton's wife, Val, and her 5-year-old daughter, Mariah, left the compound April 5. Neither of those are charged with crimes.

Matteucci said another woman, also not wanted on charges, left the farm earlier. She said she did not know the woman's identity.

Local residents initially welcomed the federal response to the anti-government group, which has tested their patience by blocking their attempts to buy land and begin spring planting.

Although the Freeman have refrained from violence, rancher K.L. Bliss says the group has "hurt me plenty, and a lot of other people, too."

Bliss and other ranchers last year bought foreclosed property that had been owned by the Freeman. The militant group, however, does not recognize state property laws, keeping the ranchers from getting the land or the financing needed to pay for it.

Child pilot led extraordinary life

Home-schooled 7-year-old took in world as classroom

PESCADERO, Calif. — Jessica Dubroff didn't learn her three R's from school books.

The 7-year-old girl and her 9-year-old brother, Joshua, were home schooled, learning reading, 'riting and 'rithmetic from life experiences.

When Jessica expressed an interest in flying a year ago, her father asked her if she would like to try a cross-country flight and she agreed.

On Thursday, Jessica, her father, Lloyd Dubroff, and flight instructor Joe Reid were killed as they took off in a rain and snow storm in Cheyenne, Wyo. Jessica was trying to become the youngest person to make the flight.

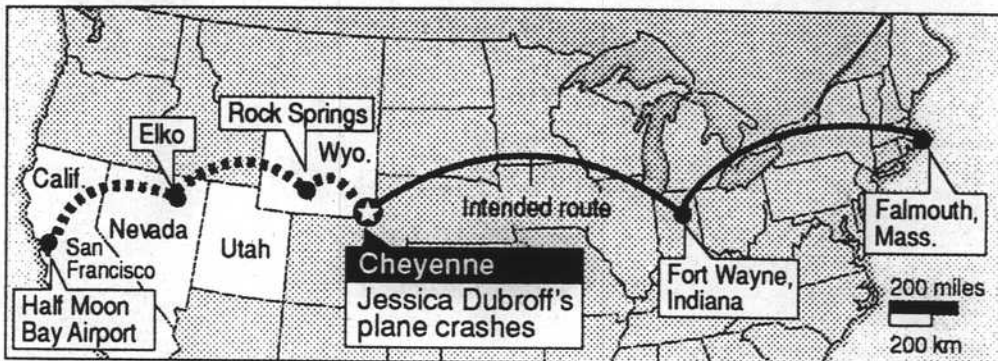
"Her baseball hat, her charisma — she was 7 years old going on 20," said a choked-up Jack McHugh, who delivered a bouquet of flowers to the Half Moon Bay Airport near Pescadero, where the journey began Wednesday.

Jessica became hooked on flying after her parents took her on an airplane ride for her sixth birthday. She had taken four months of lessons and had logged about 35 flight hours before the cross-country trip.

"What it takes to get this flight scheduled and done is much better than sitting in a classroom," Jessica's mother, Lisa Blair Hathaway, said before the flight.

The 4-foot-2, 55-pound pilot — who wore a baseball cap that said "Women Fly" — sat in a red booster seat and needed aluminum extensions to help her reach the rudder pedals.

Jessica's upbringing in Pescadero, a coastal town about 40 miles south of San Francisco, was far from the video game, Power Ranger-



filled lives of so many American children.

Jessica, Joshua and their 3-year-old sister, Jasmine, lived with Hathaway. Their father lived in nearby San Mateo with his current wife.

The world was literally the children's classroom: At age 4, Jessica was already learning about economics with her first job — a paper route.

More recently, she took horseback riding lessons in exchange for caring for the animals.

There was no TV in Hathaway's home and the children's toys were the hammers, screwdrivers and saws that they used to build their own furniture.

Hathaway and her children were vegetarians and Jessica's favorite foods were brown rice, sushi and natural juices. Her only vice — french fries.

In addition to flying, she played guitar, trumpet and piano and read such books as the biog-

raphy of Harriet Tubman and Hillary Clinton's "It Takes A Village."

Jessica even started life in a not-so-ordinary way — she was born under water without the help of a doctor or midwife. The family lived in Falmouth, Mass., before moving to California three years ago.

Reid, president of the Half Moon Bay Pilots Association, sat next to her in the Cessna 177B Cardinal. The four-seater had two sets of controls in case Jessica needed assistance.

"Mentally, she grasps the concepts as well as an adult," Reid said a few weeks before take-off.

Forrest Storz, a flight instructor who worked with Reid for many years, said Jessica was a good pilot.

"She's as capable of flying that airplane the way it was equipped as anybody else," he said. "She was just another student who was enthused and worked hard and did what she was told."

Mob storms U.N. headquarters in Liberia

MONROVIA, Liberia — Mobs broke down the gates at the U.N. headquarters and looters jumped the walls of the U.S. Embassy compound on Thursday, as even African peacekeepers reportedly joined in the widespread plunder of Liberia's warring capital.

Relief workers warned that a dangerous scarcity of food, medicine and fuel, compounded by a fifth straight day of fighting in Liberia's capital, will worsen matters for a population already among the poorest in West Africa.

"The fighting and ongoing massive looting of homes, market and shops has sparked off widespread food shortages for civilians in the city," said Tarek El Guindi, director of the U.N. World Food Program in Liberia. "A serious humanitarian crisis is likely to erupt if fighting continues."

"Lord, please help us out of this madness — your children are dying," lamented one Monrovia resident, housewife Maima Jones.

Dozens of bodies, mostly those of young men, lay by the roadside in downtown Monrovia amid burned-out vehicles and shops that have been looted since the worst fighting in more than three years broke out Saturday between rebels and government troops.

U.N. officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, said West African peacekeepers are believed to have joined in the looting of Monrovia, virtually paralyzing the U.N. food distribution system that feeds about 1.5 million people throughout Liberia. More than 23,000 tons of food is sitting in U.N. warehouses in Monrovia.

U.N. spokesman Sylvana Foa said communications with the U.N. headquarters in Monrovia were cut after mobs stormed the gates Thursday morning. She said all staff members

were reported safe and holed up at the U.S. Embassy compound.

Buildings used by UNICEF and the U.N. Development Program were also looted, along with the motor pool of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees, Foa said from New York.

Aid workers from Doctors Without Borders said they had treated dozens of people for bullet wounds and were running short of medical supplies because sniper fire prevented them from getting to the central hospital.

A senior defense official speaking from Washington said that as a result of the unrest, the number of U.S. military personnel working to evacuate Americans and other foreigners was increased from 600 to 900.

"The situation is very tenuous," U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher said.

Foa said reports from the U.N. mission in Liberia spoke of a "frenzy of looting" and that it appeared leaders of the warring factions had lost control of their own fighters.

In Washington, State Department spokesman Glyn Davies said a few looters had jumped the wall at the 27-acre American compound where up to 20,000 people have taken refuge, but were quickly run off by U.S. Special Forces.

As of late Thursday, the U.S. military had evacuated 712 people from the compound — 130 of them Americans, the rest citizens of at least 35 other countries. An earlier evacuation figure of 156 Americans was an error, based on a mistaken number from a helicopter pilot, U.S. officials said.

About 400 Americans remain in Liberia, mostly because street fighting has prevented many from getting to the embassy compound.

"A serious humanitarian crisis is likely to erupt if fighting continues."

TAREK EL GUINDI

Director of the U.N. World Food Program
in Liberia

Defense Secretary William Perry told reporters at a Pentagon news conference that the evacuation of U.S. citizens was going smoothly despite the chaos.

As a result of the crisis — the third to result in U.S. evacuations from Monrovia since 1990 — three U.S. ships carrying roughly 700 U.S. Marines were ordered to Liberia.

"They were given the orders to move to the coast this morning," U.S. Army Maj. Lew Boone said. "We're talking about a steaming time of seven to eight days."

Boone identified the ships heading from the Adriatic Sea as the USS Guam, USS Tortuga and USS Portland and said they would provide the helicopters with additional takeoff platforms and medical facilities for evacuees.

Liberia's only international airport has been destroyed.

The 7-year-old war involving seven rebel factions has killed more than 150,000 people in the West African nation, a republic created in 1847 by freed American slaves. It has left at least half the country's 2.3 million people homeless.

Crash

Continued from Page 1

day morning in Half Moon Bay, Calif., and spent the night in Cheyenne. They planned to arrive Friday in Falmouth, Mass.

The Cessna 177B owned by Reid crashed about one mile north of the Cheyenne Municipal Airport, narrowly missing houses and cars. The tail section came to a rest just 25 feet from a garage.

"I kept thinking, 'Please! Please get some altitude!'" said Tom Johnson, a 15-year pilot who saw the plane fall. "It just went right into the ground. I knew no one survived. It would have been impossible."

Johnson, whose office is about a half block from the crash site, said he spotted

the plane shortly after takeoff, and it appeared the pilot was trying to return to the airport. He said the plane never got higher than 400 feet.

"It stalled over my building, winged over and went straight into the ground like a dart," he said.

Hours after the crash, the Federal Aviation Administration said it would review rules that govern when a pilot can allow an unlicensed passenger to fly the plane.

Children have to be at least 16 to fly solo at the controls of an airplane. But children of any age can fly alongside a licensed pilot, who may let them operate the controls if he or she feels it is safe.

Shortly before takeoff, Jessica told a reporter for Cheyenne television station KKTU that the one thing she thought when flying was crashing. But she said

she did not worry about it.

After landing in Cheyenne late Wednesday, Jessica was excited. "It's been a long day," she said. "I enjoyed it. I can't wait until the next day."

The plane took off at 8:25 a.m. — just minutes after a thunderstorm hit the area, accompanied by heavy rain, snow and winds gusting to 32 mph.

Surface visibility was about five miles, and the temperature was 38 degrees, "right on the edge of icing being a problem," said Cheyenne Airport Manager Jerry Olson.

The bodies were still strapped into the plane when Police Chief John Powell arrived, the first on the scene. He said he couldn't tell who had been operating the plane.

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