

'Walked Over People' to Safety

## Survivors Detail Air Crash Horror

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Memories today in the wake of tragedy:

A man with bandaged arms and a cut over his one good eye remembered "walking over people" to reach safety in last night's plane crash.

A mother, smiling happily, told of reunion with her son and husband beside the burning airliner from which all three had escaped.

A rescue worker "looked in the plane, but knew it was hopeless for those people. I turned to those who could be helped. It was hard to tell where to start."

Those were some of the memories among the 14 who lived to talk about what happened when the TWA Martin Skyliner smashed into a hill and exploded in flames a moment after taking off from Greater Pittsburgh Airport.

Without exception they had the same theme: "God was with me. I was one of the lucky ones."

William Trout, 59, of Dayton, Ohio, a construction worker, waved bandaged hands above his bed in Sewickley Valley Hospital. He said the crash spurred him to "superhuman" strength to escape, and added:

"I remember — God forgive me — that I walked over people when I clawed my way out. I just know

we hit, and all of a sudden flames were eating back toward me.

"I'm blind in one eye, anyway, and when we hit I lost my glasses. I got a cut in the forehead, too, and the blood poured down into my good eye. I was as good as blind. I'm just plain lucky."

In another hospital room Mrs. Beatrice Cohn of Allentown, Pa., smiled at her 13-year-old son Charles Jr., both of them injured. The husband and father was a patient in another room.

"It seemed as if we banked and it got terribly rough," she said. "I was thrown against the seat. A big hole opened up and my husband said 'Get out there.' The plane was already burning. I jumped out. I landed in my bare feet.

"The first sound I heard was my child's voice. He couldn't see his father or me. He was calling us.

"My leg was broken, and three men helped carry me beyond an embankment.

"We three got together there. It was miraculous."

Two friends from the Pittsburgh suburban area were sitting together when the plane hit. One, John McCarthy, 32, hung upside down from his safety belt in the wreck-

age. He worked himself free.

His friend, T. J. O'Malley, 39, said the plane somersaulted, and he landed on the ground, gasoline was burning," O'Malley remembered.

"I don't think too many left after us. One man leaped out and tried to crawl away. He couldn't. He was on fire. We put the fire out and dragged him to safety." McCarthy and O'Malley were injured only slightly, went home after treatment.

The rescue worker was Clayton Hill, 24, civilian fire chief for the Air Force at the airport. He reached the crashed plane within minutes, saw tragedy from the outside.

"The plane was engulfed in flames," he said. "There were people standing, sitting and lying every which way.

"I looked in the plane but I knew it was hopeless for those people and I turned to those who could be helped. It was hard to tell where to start.

"One man was on the ground, groaning that both of his legs were broken. When I went to help him he begged me to help the others.

"We tried to help all we could to a nearby hill where ambulances were arriving."