**Airport At Patterson Is Memorial To Aviationist**

Advertiser Staff Reporter

A small single-engine airplane took off from Baton Rouge Municipal Airport on the fog-covered morning of May 19, 1936. Less than ten minutes later, the faint轰 of the motor heard overhead by farm residents some eight miles from the airport suddenly stopped.

The plane and its two occupants crashed in a thickly wooded area strewn with debris over a half-mile radius. Rescuers arrived on the scene several hours later and found the bodies of two men. Both of the victims were thrown clear of the wreckage which was beginning to burn from a ruptured gasoline line.

When word reached the state capital of the fatal accident, Rickard Lance, governor of Louisiana, commented, "It was a distinct shock."

The Louisiana House of Representatives, hearing of the accident voted to adjourn out of respect for one of the victims.

When told of the news, a former actress of the silent stage, wife of one of the victims, entered a Baton Rouge downtown hotel and refused to see anyone except close friends and relatives.

Headlines in the evening newspapers told of the tragic accident in which Harry Palmerston Williams, aviation expert, financier and mayor of Patterson, was killed.

Obeying her husband's wishes, Mrs. Williams had the body cremated. A close relative of the late Patterson spread the ashes over the Patterson Airport from an airplane.

While Williams was returning to Patterson after a conference with the governor, at which they discussed legislation to promote aviation in the state, Johnnie A. "Red" Worthington, a native of Arkansas and personal pilot of Williams, was also killed in the crash.

Williams, 33, at the time of his death, was the son of Frank B. Williams, a sugar cane baron with most of his holdings in the Patterson-Franklin area.

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WILLIAMS' CREW — Members of Harry P. Williams' aviation crew in December of 1929 were (left to right, top row) Son Hurst, general handyman; Charley Ferson, mechanic; Howard Rochel, mechanic; Doug Worthen, pilot; (bottom row) Roy Nuttall, pilot; Walter Wedell, pilot; Eddie Roberton, general manager of operations; Tom Lemmon, mechanic, Jimmy Wedell, pilot (standing) and J. Munson, pilot. The photograph was taken by Williams shortly after the new steel hanger was completed.