

O. K. GRIMSTAD SEES FALL OF BIG DIRIGIBLE

Ball Game Forgotten When Ship Plunges in Flames.

"It was the most spectacular sight imaginable and I wouldn't have missed seeing it for \$100," said O. King Grimstad, a local attorney, in speaking of the crash of the Goodyear dirigible airship at Chicago last Monday. Mr. Grimstad returned Friday from a business trip to the Illinois metropolis.

"I was in the grandstand at the White Sox ball park watching Chicago and New York battle for honors when the big ship flew over the city. Almost every fan in the grand stand and bleachers saw the ship catch fire, and the umpire immediately called the game, as the crowd started rushing out into the diamond, where they could get a better view.

Dives Through Roof.

"The dirigible paused for a moment after the flames shot up the side, and then nosed down and dived through the top of the Illinois Trust company's building. As soon as the flames ceased, the occupants of the fuselage started to jump with their parachutes. One of the passengers was floating gently to earth when the flaming gas bag swept down beside him and set fire to his silk parachute. In a flash the delicate fabric of the umbrella was snuffed out of existence and the man was dashed to death on the pavement below.

"Another of the parachutes caught fire before it left the ship's car, but in some manner, for which I am unable to account, the man was extinguished before it had consumed enough of the cloth to cause the parachute to drop. One occupant of the blimp did not jump, but crashed through the skylight of the building with the wreck of the dirigible. Of course he was burned to a crisp in the explosion which occurred inside the building.

Has Seen Many Fall.

"I have seen balloons burst and airplanes fall, and at one time while I was training at Pymatook, Pa., I saw two planes crash from 6,000 feet, but I never saw anything as spectacular as the landing of the Goodyear ship.

"It is not at all likely that the cause of the accident ever will be determined," continued Mr. Grimstad, "as the ship was something new in the way of flying, and according to reports in Chicago, the only man who would be apt to know was the mechanic who was killed when the ship fell. It seemed to be the consensus of opinion among those who claimed to know that the gas was ignited by a spark from one of the rotary engines with which the dirigible was equipped."

Grimstad Witnesses Dirigible Fall

Clipped By:



seabix1

Wed, Sep 2, 2020