

# MERCY PILOT



The Joe  
Crosson  
Story

"This is a wonderful  
story about one of  
the world's aviation  
pioneers, a courageous and  
skilled pilot, an Alaska hero."

—Tom Wardleigh, chairman  
Alaskan Aviation  
Safety Foundation

**DIRK TORDOFF**

# Mercy Pilot The Joe Crosson Story Paperback

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## **Mercy Pilot The Joe Crosson Story Paperback:**

**Alaska's First Bush Pilots, 1923-30** Jim Rearden, 2014-04-04 This book follows the careers of Alaska's pioneering pilots who with cranky open cockpit biplanes started the great change in Alaska's way of travel. Aviation first arrived at Fairbanks, the trade center of mainland Alaska, from which dog sled trails spider web to mines, villages, and trap lines. During winters, goods and people traveled mostly by dog sled. During the summer of 1923, Ben Eielson was the first to fly commercially from Fairbanks, ferrying passengers and light freight with an open cockpit Jenny JN4 biplane. It was the beginning of the leap from ground travel to the air. Noel Wien was the next. In the summers of 1924-26, he flew open cockpit biplanes from Fairbanks. Starting in 1927, he flew a cabin biplane year around on scheduled flights in the 579 miles between Fairbanks and Nome. In March 1929, Wien flew from Alaska to the Elisif, an ice locked trading schooner in Siberia, to return with a load of valuable furs. In the following November, Ben Eielson repeated this flight to the Nanuk, another ice bound trading schooner in Siberia. And when he and his mechanic Earl Borland returned for a second load of Siberian fur, their Hamilton airplane disappeared in a winter snowstorm. This brought on one of the most famous and difficult aerial searches ever made from and in Alaska. By the 1930s, Alaska's growing aviation industry had revolutionized transportation in the Territory. This volume is a fond look back at the triumphs and tragedies of the pioneering Ben Eielson, Noel Wien, Harold Gillam, Joe Crosson, Ed Young, and others, the great pilots who were the first bush pilots of Alaska. **Sky Rivals** Adam L. Penenberg, 2016-02-16 During the Golden Age of Aviation in the 1920s and 1930s, two great pilots stood above the rest: one eyed Oklahoma farm boy Wiley Post, shy and awkward on the ground but a daredevil in the sky, and Jimmie Mattern, a handsome charismatic Hollywood stunt pilot from Texas. The whole world followed their exploits through screaming newspaper headlines as they flew in planes made of little more than wood, canvas, and bailing wire, competing to be the first solo flier to circumnavigate the earth. Only one would succeed, though the other would become more famous than he could have ever imagined. And both would change the face of aviation forever. **When the Laughing Stopped** John Evangelist Walsh, 2008 For sheer magnetism, there never was another personality on the American scene to match Will Rogers. The cowboy philosopher, they called him. He said things that made people think hard and laugh at the same time. A top attraction in movies and a star on radio, he was also a widely read and much quoted columnist and writer whose wryly humorous observations on ordinary life, especially politics, found an audience of millions. But he was much more than America's best loved entertainer. That homey, confiding way of his charmed folks everywhere, so that without even trying, Will became everybody's favorite neighbor. He wasn't just listened to and admired; he was dearly loved for just being himself. Then suddenly in the summer of 1935 came the shocking news: Will Rogers was dead. Only fifty-five at the height of his immense fame, he was killed in the crash of a small plane on the lonely shore of the Arctic Ocean in northernmost Alaska. It was one of the saddest deaths in show business annals, and on the very evening that Will crashed to his death, his loving daughter Mary

was on stage back East acting in a play about a plane crash The awful coincidence drove her to end her promising career Drawing on extensive original research author John Walsh recounts the whole tragic story with an unprecedented wealth of new detail that brings the crash and all that preceded and followed it to vivid dramatic life in a compelling narrative Here is the definitive treatment of one of the country's true tragedies including a moving portrait of the unfortunate Mary and a full discussion and analysis of the cause of the crash **BOOK JACKET** Alaska's Women Pilots Jenifer Lee Fratzke, 2004 The seven oral histories she includes here explain each woman's motivations for flying they include the descriptions and praises of mentors that made all the difference and they recall stories of grief and stories of good fortune Each personal history is remarkable in what it reveals of the history of aviation in Alaska and the individual contributions that history is built on These stories are unique and inspirational at the same time they have an echoing quality that compounds strengthens and supports the voices of those who have gone before Harriet Quimby Beryl Markham Pancho Barnes and many others and those who may come after **BOOK JACKET** *Tanana and Chandalar* Robert Addison McKennan, 2006 McKennan chronicles both his day to day struggles to survive in the Alaska wilderness and his frustrations as an anthropologist He recorded his field methods and the difficulties he encountered in pursuing his research The result is a personal memoir of a dedicated researcher and sensitive observer **Jacket** **America, History and Life**, 2005 Article abstracts and citations of reviews and dissertations covering the United States and Canada Alaska History, 2005 **Mercy Pilot** Dirk Tordoff, 2024-04-09 Joe Crosson a brave and skilled pilot became a national hero between the world wars flying mercy missions in the North He pioneered air routes throughout Alaska and foresaw the future of commercial aviation Above all else he loved to fly In 1929 Crosson generated newspaper headlines worldwide flying a long dangerous and unprecedented search in the Siberian winter darkness for a lost pilot and friend Carl Ben Eielson Crosson made a bitterly cold winter flight in an open cockpit carrying life saving serum to Barrow flying through the uncharted Brooks Range without navigation or communication He was the first pilot to land on a glacier He had the sad duty of bringing the bodies Wiley Post and Will Rogers Jr back from their fatal crash in northern Alaska Crosson thrived on adversity and overcame tragedy and was influenced by two extraordinary women his sister Marvel a contemporary of Amelia Earhart and Lillian Osborne the beautiful and able young woman who became his wife **North Dakota History**, 1953 **The New International Year Book**, 1950 **Collier's**, 1948 **New York Times Saturday Review of Books and Art**, 1970 **Who's who in the West**, 2000 **Who's who in America**, 2003 Who's who in American Law, 1990

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