

Frances Kay McDonald McGregor, Faculty.



Plane Crash Injuries Prove Fatal to Memphian

Mrs. Frances Kay McGregor, 25, a popular and dedicated teacher at Memphis Tech High School, and a bride of only a little more than two months, died tragically in the crash of a British Overseas Airways Corp. jet liner. Mrs. McGregor, her mother, Mrs. Franklin P. McDonald of Mobile, AL and 123 other people died when the plane plunged into

the sacred slopes of Mt. Fuji, near Tokyo.

A close friend and co-worker, Mrs. William O'Mary, a cosmetology teacher at the school, described the pretty blond teacher's anticipation of the trip. Mrs. McGregor's husband, John M. McGregor, 27, a biology teacher and assistant football and track coach, was too distraught to talk.

Mrs. McDonald, 55, had won a trip for two in a sales competition sponsored by Thermo King Corp., for which she was a dealer in Mobile. A hard working widow, she owned the Mobile Brake and Equipment Company at Mobile and was the beloved "Mama Mac" to her employees, Mrs. O'Mary said.

Mrs. McDonald invited Mrs. McGregor, her only child, to accompany her with other dealers of Thermo King, Mobile refrigeration firm, on the trip.

Being a newly wed she had regrets about leaving her husband, but it was the chance of a lifetime to get such a trip.

Mrs. McGregor left Memphis February 24 for San Francisco, where she joined her mother and the other dealers and the party left for the Orient on February 26. They were due back March 15.

She was just an all - American girl, said Mrs. O'Mary,. "An excellent teacher" was the way W.A. Bourne, Tech principal, described Mrs. McGregor, "and an accomplished musician, organist and pianist." Mrs. McGregor also sang in the choir at Idlewild Presbyterian Church where she was a member. This year she was the faculty sponsor for the senior class at Tech, charged with supervising all class activities.

Mrs. McGregor came from her hometown of Mobile to attend Southwestern and she went to Tech after graduating three years ago. At Tech she met her future husband and they were married December 28, during the Christmas holidays. They moved into Mrs. McGregor's apartment at 38 North Idlewild.

She had written a letter to Mr. McGregor from Tokyo telling him how much she was enjoying the trip. The tour party had been in Kyoto and Osaka, Japan and was returning to Tokyo to

catch a plane to Hong Kong where the party was to spend five days then go on to Hawaii before coming home.

Aviation experts studying the wreckage said freak air currents and sudden severe winds may have ripped the Boeing 707 apart.