

Wounded Pilot Says He Welcomed Hijacker's Bullet

WASHINGTON, June 12 (AP) —When is getting shot in the stomach the finest feeling in the world? Dale Hupe says when it means you have thwarted a hijacker's hankering to blow up the airliner you are piloting and the 57 persons aboard.

"When I jumped him he was firing into the cabin, and as I left my seat, he turned and fired at me—and that was the best feeling I ever had," the pilot recalled today in a hospital news conference. "We knew we had him stopped then."

Captain Hupe referred to Auther G. Barkley, 49 years old who boarded the Trans World Airlines plane at Phoenix June 4. Above New Mexico, Barkley forced his way into the cockpit armed with a razor, revolver and a can of gasoline. He has been charged with aircraft piracy and interfering with a flight crew.

Captain Hupe, clad in a yellow and white terry cloth robe and knee socks prescribed by his doctor to prevent blood clots, recounted the ordeal publicly today.

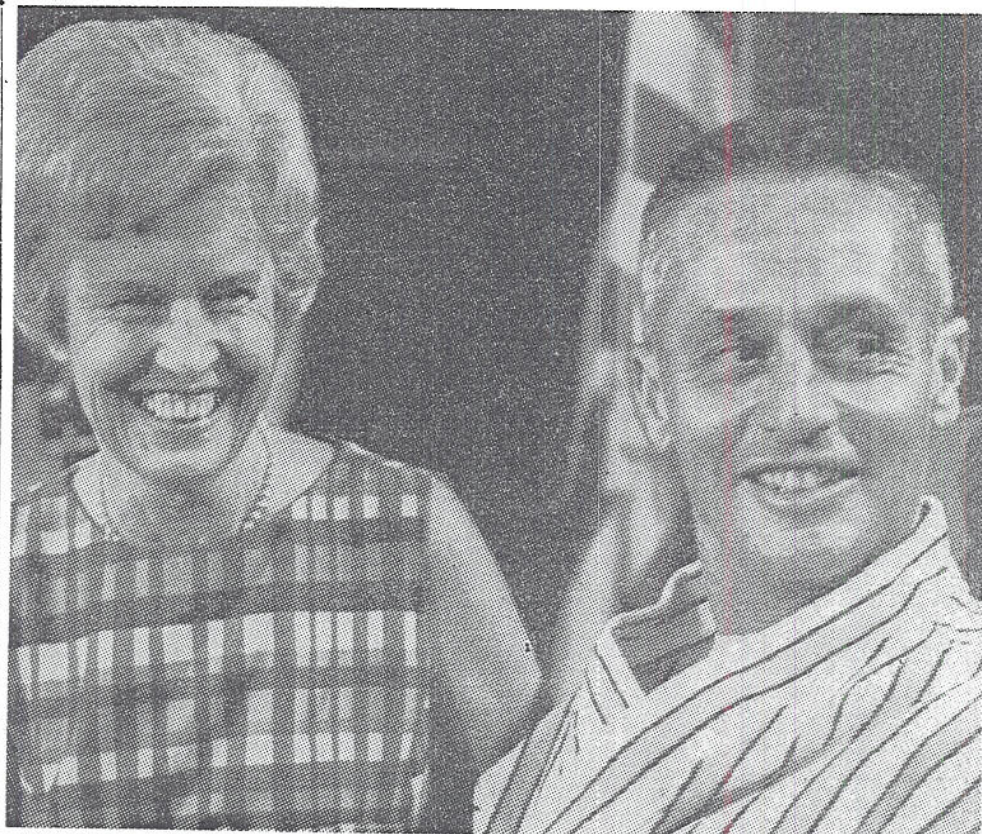
Sensed His Agitation

The crew sensed Barkley's agitation and tenseness, he said, but humored him and listened to him tell how he felt the Federal Government had wronged him.

From the first, Captain Hupe said, it was obvious this was no ordinary hijacking because Barkley did not know where he wanted to go.

"He told us to fly 'zero heading,' which means north," the pilot said, "and once he asked us what country was to the north."

Indications that the hijacker intended to destroy the plane and its occupants became apparent only after the plane had landed at Dulles Airport near



Associated Press

Capt. Dale C. Hupe, who was wounded aboard the plane, with his wife at the hospital

here, taken on \$100,750 in ransom and then been ordered by Barkley to take off immediately without releasing the 51 passengers.

After that, Captain Hupe said, the hijacker referred to the people as his hostages. The crew eventually persuaded him to let them return to Washington so he could obtain more ransom money.

Shooting out the plane's tires after it landed again to prevent another forced takeoff was the only option open to trap the hijacker, Captain Hupe said.

He praised the Federal Bureau of Investigation agent

who let himself be thrust into the plane and before the muzzle of the hijacker's gun. If anyone is a hero it is that agent, James Siano, the pilot said.

The motion of the agent diverted the hijacker just enough to give Captain Hupe the opening he had awaited and he lunged.

The captain actually thought the hijacker was firing at passengers.

"I'm no hero—I'm just thankful to be alive," he said.

Dr. Carlos Odiaga said Captain Hupe would be released Tuesday and should be back flying within six weeks.