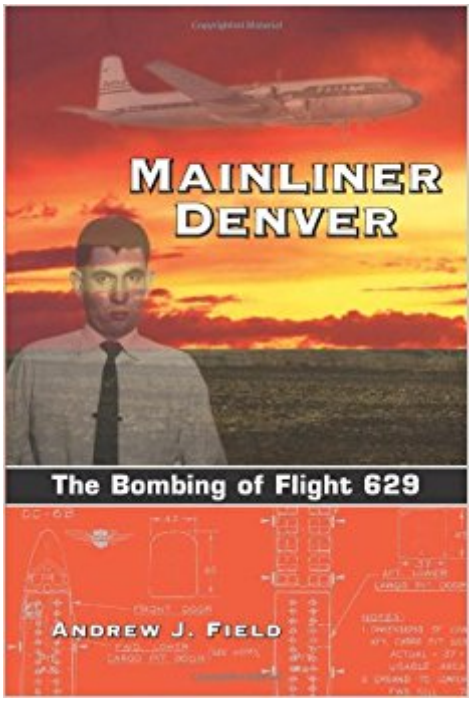
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Mainliner Denver: The Bombing Of Flight 629



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Synopsis

The riveting true story of the F.B.I.'s investigation into the first act of sabotage against a U.S. commercial aircraft, the unprecedented televised trial exposed the murderer's dark motives, and the shock waves that are still reverberating in America's skies and courtrooms decades after the bombing of the "Mainliner Denver." Ã Â

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Field uses his legal background to deftly wend his way through the trail of evidence." Ã Â Ã Â Denver Post"Andrew J. Field has written a compelling account of the worst case of mass murder committed by one person in Colorado history. Ã Â Field knows how to tell a story. Ã Â He has a good eye for the telling and ironic detail."Ã Â Rocky Mountain News"The research behind this book is exceptional, but the presentation is what draws one into the story.Ã Â It puts you next to a demented murderer who thought nothing of blowing up over forty people in the night skies of Colorado.Ã Â Being near a person like this, even in a book, is not a comfortable place to be, but one you don't want to miss."Ã Â -Michael J. Boyd, aviation consultant and commentator for CNN, PBS, and NPR.

Education and Legal Career: Skidmore College (B.A. in Philosophy, with honors, 1986); J.D., Vermont Law School (Magna Cum Laude, 1989); Law Clerk, Judge David M. Ebel, U.S. Court of Appeals for the 10th Circuit (1989-90);Deputy District Attorney, Arapahoe County, Colorado

(1991-94); Law Clerk, Idaho Supreme Court (1994-95); Staff Attorney (criminal law specialist), Colorado Court of Appeals (1995-2011); Staff Attorney and Reporter for the Model Criminal Jury Instructions Committee, Ã Â Ã Â Ã Â Ã Â Colorado Supreme Court (2011-15). Admitted to practice in Colorado (inactive status) and Massachusetts (retired status).

I remember being fascinated with this story back in 1955 when I was in the 7th grade. I didn't realize there was a book on this incident until I recently saw a television program. The author provides the reader with the recollections of individuals who saw the airplane fall from the sky. The investigation follows until the focus turns to sabotage and with the perpetrator being John Gilbert Graham. Greed was the motive as the son took out an insurance policy on his mother with himself as the beneficiary. Graham had conflicting feelings towards his mother since he was a child. He felt he didn't get the love and affection from his mother as a child when he wasn't retrieved home by his mother when she was financially able to support him. This mass murder took the lives of 44 individuals.Following his arrest the book focuses on the selection of a jury and the trial itself. This takes up a good portion of the book and if you are interested in law this should be of special interest to you. Following his conviction the book covers Graham's time in prison until his execution in January of 1957 in Colorado's gas chamber in Canon City.This bombing incident of this airplane took place on November 1, 1955, less than a month after the October 6, 1955, airplane crash that killed 63 passengers and 3 crew members when the plane slammed into Medicine Bow Peak in Wyoming.I feel author Andrew Field did a wonderful job in relating this crime of mass murder through sabotaging an airplane with a planted bomb by the son in his mother's suitcase which he claimed was a present for her to open when she arrived at her destination. If you enjoy true crime stories this book will provide you with a unique twist on the subject.

This book is THE definitive work on this horrific incident, as far as it goes. It could have been written with more flare and given more of a "novel" treatment but the author chose a more sterile approach. It's a great story but at times gets so bogged down in minutia (do we really need to know that Judge Moore didn't like his first name for example) that it teeters on boring while at the same time taking you into the twisted mind of a mass murderer. It was like watching a 15 inch black and white TV when it should have been in color on a 55 inch HD flat screen. My interest in flight 629 is more than just passing. My uncle, Dr. Harold Sandstead, was on that plane. While I highly recommend this work, I would like there to have been a little more of the personal stories of those who died that night. It's too bad because this book could have and should have been a huge seller. There is so

much more to this story than just what is in this book. Afterall, without the victims, there is just a plane a deranged man blew up. The people who died are what made this a huge news item...they are why a book was written. Yet, practically nothing about any of them.L. Sandstead

This story ran in newspapers all over the country, apparently, because here in the east I saw bits of the story when a kid. Now I have the 'rest of the story' , as they say. He was guilty as all get-out, yet his jailers were considerate of his needs. You might think that some of the 'rights' for civil treatment of someone so obviously criminal were only arrived at after decades of social uprisings of the 60s and thereafter. But no. The biographer was thorough about every moment of Graham's incarceration, his surroundings in jail(s), his legal team and never intimated that things were rough on this murderer. That gave me a good feeling about this whole drama. The jailers , et al, had to have 'known' he was guilty --- but the system toed the line on giving him basic comforts. I fully expected to find that someone's disgust might have shown itself and that he would be handled with less than ordinary care. Of course with their suspicion that he would lose at trial they also guessed he was a dead man walking. Sure enough he did lose and did go to the gas chamber -- and that was told not leaving out one or two gruesome minutes. A good read. And a lot of answers for one who was so young and so mystified once.

"Directly beneath the disintegrating plane, Harold and Dorothy Heil thought their farm was under attack."Probably one of the most chilling sentences I've ever read in a book.The horrific nighttime bombing of United Air Lines Flight 629 over Longmont, Colorado, in 1955 is brought vividly to life in "Mainliner Denver." This is one of those "can't put down" reads that will keep you enthralled and continuously reading, from front cover to back cover.In addition to presenting the crime, its aftermath, the search for the cause, and the criminal trial and its outcome, various subplots also develop: the media rivalry between Denver's two major newspapers, each hoping to top the other one in coverage; in-fighting between the defense attorneys; and the investigators' shock upon discovering that there was no federal statute on the books (in 1955) that made it a crime to blow up an airplane.John Gilbert Graham, who was arrested, tried, convicted and ultimately executed for the crime, comes across as a cold, calculating and unremorseful madman. He blamed an unhappy childhood on his mother, so he decided to get rid of her and then collect on a significant flight insurance policy that he purchased at Denver's Stapleton Airport just prior to the departure of the fatal flight. He is both totally unmoved by the scope of the disaster and shockingly callous in his public comments regarding the 43 additional victims, including a 13-month-old boy, who were killed

along with Graham’s mother when the suitcase-packed time-bomb he manufactured blew the United DC-6B airliner (named "Mainliner Denver") out of the sky. Truly a chilling monster.Writer Andrew J. Field gives us a vivid, highly detailed of this terrible crime and its impact on those involved, in a book that will enthrall you with its narrative and impress you with its details. Includes photographs and diagrams. Highly recommended.

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