

**The Dorothy (Hester) Stenzel Collection**

The Museum of Flight  
Seattle, Washington

**[Letter to Helen Hester from Dorothy Hester, circa 1930-  
1931]**

**Source:** The Dorothy (Hester) Stenzel Collection, Box 1, Folder 7

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Transcribed and reviewed by  
Museum of Flight staff and volunteers.

[Written letterhead for "Hotel Fontenelle / OMAHA. NEB." Letterhead logo is perpendicular to handwritten text.]

Tues

Morning 12:30 a.m.

Dear Helen,

I made 62 loops. What do you think of your little sister? I didn't feel so very bad. When I came down there was the ambulance [sic] waiting for me. They wanted me to get in. Boy when you catch me in one of them I won't know any thing [sic] about it. I went down to the Boeing hanger [sic] to sleep. When I got there I heare [sic] the ambulance [sic] & fire engine [sic] screaming also the people. The radio-man telling everyone to keep their seats and stay off the field. I was so tired it didn't register. I went to sleep. The reporters woke me in 1 ½ hours. It was time for me to stunt. I went down to another hanger [sic] where I was to meet Tex & saw a crashed aero plane. Boy there was not a spare inch of it not bent. I asked who crashed, but no one would tell  
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me. Then I heard some one [sic] talking about speed & a man came out of the office & said some one [sic] had stole Speed's coat & hat. Then I knew he had been hurt badly ore [sic] killed. I asked every one [sic] & no one would tell me. I knew Tex had told them not to tell me. I asked some more & I found out they wouldn't tell a thing. So I quit asking. When they came he didn't say a word about it so I didn't. I went up & stunted & when I came down I heard ~~them~~ paper boys yelling. "Speed Hulman. Famious [sic] speed flier killed. I thought he had been by the looks of the plane He was flying up side [sic] down 25 ft high in front of the grand stand. His belt broke & he was hanging from his knees up side [sic] down. going 300 M.P.H. He let go the controls to hang on & kicked the sticks back & nosed in the ground. He was thrown clear of [sic] the plane with his parachute that he was too low to use. His shoes both came off & ~~was~~ were about 25 ft from his body. He was killed instantly just before he went up he was congratulating me & Tex He was sure nice. real real big & strong. quite good looking & real nice. I sure liked him. Write me Great Lakes Factory. We are leaving for Cline in the morning. Every one [sic] liked my stunts. every one [sic] but Jimmy Dolittle.

Love, Dorothy