

WAR HERO-ACTOR AUDIE MURPHY, CHATTANOOGA LAWYER, 3 OTHERS ON AIRPLANE REPORTED MISSING

2 Decorated for Military Service

Audie Murphy—short of stature, baby-faced and a product of Texas — gained fame during World War II when he became America's most-decorated war hero.

His decorations included the Medal of Honor.

After the war, Murphy wrote a best-selling book, "To Hell and Back," which became a motion picture and opened the door to Hollywood stardom to the young hero.

After his initial role, Murphy was seen in a number of motion pictures — mostly westerns which cast him as the fast gun — but none of them was considered to be box office or critical successes.

Murphy, who has experienced some financial setbacks in recent years, was in Atlanta to meet with officials of Modular Management concerning some investments. He represented himself and two groups of prospective investors, according to Jack Spoon, the firm's sales manager.

Among the Modular officials at the Atlanta meeting was another World War II veteran, Raymond Prater, a Chattanooga attorney.

Prater, 48, spent much of his boyhood at Bonny Oaks School after the separation of his parents. He was graduated



RAYMOND PRATER



AUDIE MURPHY

from Tyner High School, and he enrolled in Washington and Lee University.

He entered the Army in 1942 after completing a year of college, and he was sent to the University of Connecticut to study engineering under an Army training program. When the program was discontinued, he was sent to the infantry and was shipped to Europe as a machine gunner.

He served in England, France, Belgium, Holland and Germany, taking part in the Battle of the Bulge and winning

a Purple Heart and the Combat Infantry Badge.

Prater returned to college in 1946 and received a law degree in 1949.

He began practicing law in Chattanooga in 1950 and ran unsuccessfully for Congress two years later. He later ran for the congressional seat of James B. Frazier Jr. in 1962 and was again defeated.

He was co-manager of the Hamilton County campaign of the late President John F. Kennedy in 1960.

PRATER ABOARD

Craft Left Atlanta Friday for Virginia — Pilot Didn't File Plan

By LES SEAGO

Chattanooga attorney Raymond Prater and four men, including movie star and war hero Audie Murphy, aboard a light twin-engine airplane were reported missing Sunday between Atlanta and Martinsville, Va.

Prater, Murphy and the others have not been seen since they boarded an Aero Commander at Atlanta's Peachtree-DeKalb Airport shortly before 9 a.m. Friday to fly to Virginia on business.

The Federal Aviation Administration reported late Sunday that the missing plane might have experienced difficulty in bad weather at Roanoke, Va., shortly before noon Friday.

Their disappearance became known Sunday afternoon in Chattanooga when Mrs. Prater, concerned because she had heard nothing from her husband, asked the Federal Aviation Administration to begin a search.

Prater, who twice ran unsuccessfully for Congress, is general counsel for Modular Management Inc., which