

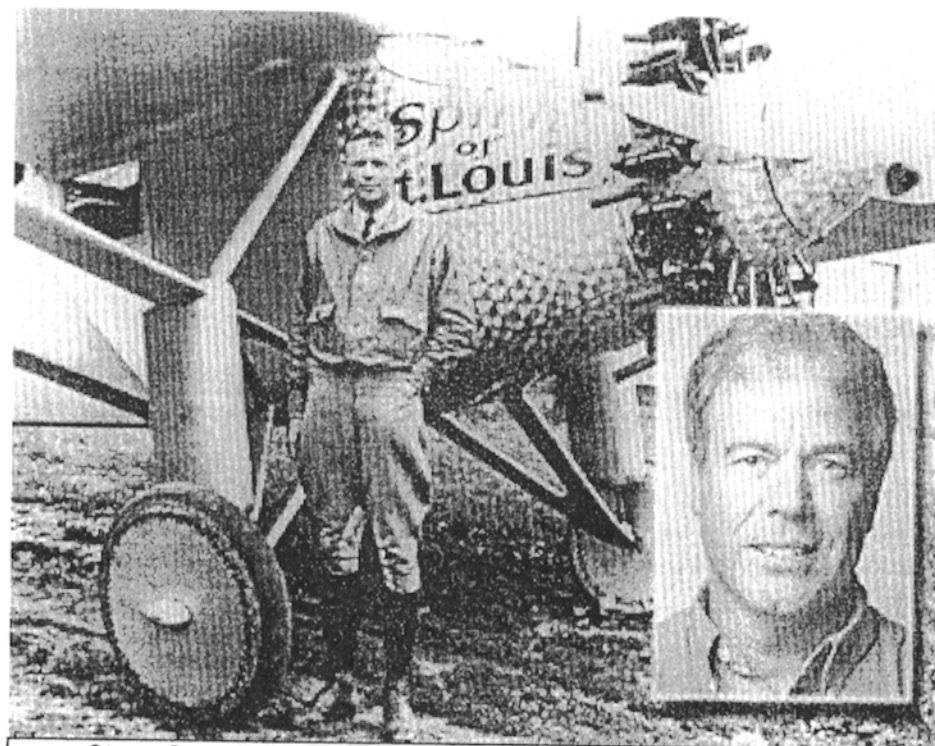
Lindbergh Touches Down At Ascension

While the history of America is dotted with both revered and controversial figures, perhaps no one man has ever combined those two aspects quite like Charles Lindbergh. One of the early prototypes of the modern national media celebrity, Lindbergh burst onto the scene when he made his legendary solo flight across the Atlantic Ocean, flying from New York City to Paris nonstop. His fame continued as he pursued improvements in the realm of commercial aviation. However, not all of his fame came from his lofty achievements, as the kidnapping and death of his infant firstborn son was also played out in front of the entire country. He was also placed in the center of controversy with his vocal opposition to the United States entering another World War in the late 1930s.

In the end, Lindbergh left an indelible mark on 20th century America with the legacy of his accomplishments.

This past Saturday, Steve Carroll performed a one man show recounting Lindbergh's life, from his early life before fame came his way, up until his final days on Maui.

In front of an attentive audience in the Church of the Ascension's Parish Hall, Carroll walked out in front of them com-



Steve Carroll (inset) portrays Lindbergh in his one-man show.

pletely enveloped in the role, taking onlookers on the turbulent ups and downs of the man's life. Every little action presented was acted out in a painstakingly emotional manner, with Carroll giving a gut wrenching performance of a man judging himself of every little act he had performed in his life, even while he was denying that he was doing so.

The one man play was set up with Lindbergh coming back from the great beyond one last time to explain his reasons for why his life turned out like it did. The play was an unapologetic look

at a man who was solitary by nature, but had to learn to exist in the unceasing glare of global interest and curiosity. What I saw that night wasn't what I usually expect out of a portrayal of Lindbergh. Instead of stoic, triumphant legend, we see a man stumbling through a perilous world of fame, where any word he says can be turned against him.

Carroll, who also wrote the play, proved himself to be an accomplished performer, never breaking character for a moment. He stayed true to his intent, bringing the story of Lindbergh down to Earth, and making every little situ-

ation presented seem so very human. As ironic as it is to keep Lindbergh so grounded, it succeeded in drawing onlookers deeper and deeper into the man's trials and tragedies. The distraught confusion portrayed during the recount of the kidnapping was particularly gripping, with a taut mix of anger and grief thrown into the mix in order to keep the audience pinned to the back of their chairs as they witnessed a vibrant display of tragedy, despite the fact that it was one man verbally retelling the story while sitting on the edge of a desk.

Perhaps the strongest point to be made about the value of the play was in its educational elements. The detail into which the tale went on his life was exhausting, exploring many of the intimate nooks and crannies of his history that are usually glossed over, such as his early trials in the world of barnstorming.

In conclusion, it was an evening well spent for this reporter, personally witnessing a actor transformed in full to an American icon. The play itself proved that no matter how much a life is spent under the microscope of the public, there is always something more to a person if you have the determination to look deep within them.

Trent Townsend