

Women who flew solo as child found dead of suicide

by UPI

MEADVILLE, Pa. -- Victoria Van Meter, who made headlines at the age of 11 by flying solo across the United States, has been found dead at her home in Meadville, Pa. The Crawford County Coroner's office says Van Meter, 26, died of a self-inflicted gunshot wound, The Meadville Times reported Wednesday. Her body was found Sunday evening by a neighbor, the newspaper said. One year after her cross-country flight, Van Meter made headlines again when she piloted a plane across the Atlantic Ocean. She was accompanied by an experience pilot on both of her journeys but did all the flying herself. At the time, Van Meter was treated as a celebrity with appearances on television and a visit to the White House. She is currently one of 47 pilots featured in a traveling exhibit on women and flight at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington.

Copyright © 2008, by United Press International. All Rights Reserved.

Women who flew solo as child found dead of suicide by UPI