

1 LEGEND: Q. DET. GARDNER A. PAUL PANZICA
2 Q2. DET. BERNSTEIN
3

4 Q. Can you, can you talk to us a little bit about what happened?
5 A. Mm hm (yes).

6 Q. Just let me put this up beside his head. All right, uh, oh, how do you spell your last
7 name? P-A-N-Z-I-C-A?

8 A. Yeah.

9 Q. Okay. What, what's your date of birth?

10 A. [REDACTED] 69.

11 Q. [REDACTED] 69?

12 A. Uh huh (yes).

13 Q. Um, obviously, you were involved in the crash. Where were you sitting at in the
14 helicopter?

15 A. The right, uh, rear. Right rear seat.

16 Q. Right rear seat? In the passenger seat?

17 A. Yeah.

18 Q. Okay. Um, who was sitting next to you?

19 A. Uh, Ed Nettleton.

20 Q. Ed Nettleton?

21 A. To my left.

22 Q. Okay. And.

23 A2. Um, actually, I need to _____.

24 Q2. Uh, can you _____?

25 A. You want me to wait for his wife to come?

26 Q. No, she can.

27 A. Okay. _____.

28 Q. That's good. Um, who was in the front passenger seat?

29 A. Larry Sayers.

30 Q. Larry Sayers? And the pilot, had you met the pilot before? Did you know him?

31 A. Yes. Yes.

32 Q. Okay. Um, you were, from what we've talked with, uh, other, Mr. Nettleton and Mr.
33 Sayers, briefly. Um, you guys were site, this, a new antenna site. Is that correct?

34 A. Correct.

- 1 Q. Okay. Have you been to that site before?
2 A. We've been to the area. But, not to the actual site where we were trying to land.
- 3 Q. Okay. So, you've been in that area.
4 A. Yes.
- 5 Q. Just not at that particular one. Um, you, were you coming in for a landing or? Do, do
6 you know what was going on?
7 A. Yes. We were coming in for a landing.
- 8 Q. Okay. Did you hear them say they were gonna land or?
9 A. No. No.
- 10 Q. Pretty obvious.
11 A. To me it looked like we were landing.
- 12 Q. Okay. Did you hear, uh, any of the radio traffic or the talking going between the pilot
13 and anybody else?
14 A. No.
- 15 Q. Okay. So, you were coming in for a landing.
16 A. Mm hm (yes).
- 17 Q. Is that correct? Okay. What, what, what happened then?
18 A. Um, we bounced. And, uh, when we came up, I heard Loren say, oh, shit. And we went
19 into a, a violent spin. And, and then we just rolled. We, we cart wheeled numerous
20 times. And, uh, till we came to a rest.
- 21 Q. Okay. You say you bounced. Did, did you come in contact with the ground or?
22 A. Yes.
- 23 Q. Okay. Was it a hard landing? Or did it feel like the earth gave away?
24 A. No. I couldn't tell you. I just, it just, it bounced.
- 25 Q. Okay. After it bounced, did you rotate violently or did you just go up? Or did, do you
26 know what happened after that point or?
27 A. Um, we went out, um, I think we started rotating to the left. And then I think we started
28 rotating to the right. Um, and then shit hit the fan.
- 29 Q. Okay. Uh, did you hear any alarms or anything beforehand?
30 A. Mm mm (no). No.
- 31 Q. No? Okay. Uh.
32 A. No alarms. The alarm was, oh, shit.
- 33 Q. Okay. When, uh, so, you, the helicopter made contact with the ground. Did it stay down
34 for a period of time?
35 A. No.

- 1 Q. Or did it _____.
- 2 A. No, it was like a, it was like he tried to land. Didn't like it. But, it bounced. It was, I, I
3 can't de-, describe it, besides a bounce.
- 4 Q. Okay. Um, when you, you said that it went immediately it went to left and then back to
5 the right?
- 6 A. I think, yeah, he went like this and then he went like this.
- 7 Q. Did he look like he was trying to get it out of there or? The, the pilot?
- 8 A. Yeah. I think as soon as the bounce happened, he, he went to the left and was trying to.
9 I, I don't know. I mean, it literally just went to the left. And oh, shit. And, pewww.
- 10 Q. Okay. Do you have any idea why the pilot picked that area to land?
- 11 A. I don't. Well, it's a site we were trying to get to. I can't, because, I was in the back.
- 12 Q. Uh huh (yes)
- 13 A. I don't know exactly where we were on the mountain top.
- 14 Q. Okay.
- 15 A. But, there is a peak and it's called Waterman's Peak.
- 16 Q. Okay.
- 17 A. And that's a site we were trying to scout out to look at.
- 18 Q. So, there's, so, there's no discussion between the pilot and anybody else before you guys
19 went in to _____. This looks like a good spot.
- 20 A. No.
- 21 Q. Or let's go over here.
- 22 A. No. The only discussion I seem to recall, um, was be-, before we picked that site, I think
23 the first time we had gone around, there was a different site he had landed at, earlier in
24 the week.
- 25 Q. Okay.
- 26 A. Um, and he had mentioned that. He said he had landed out there by himself earlier in the
27 week. Uh, maybe last week, I guess.
- 28 Q. Any reason that you know of, that he didn't land there again?
- 29 A. No. Except to try and get closer to the peak.
- 30 Q. Okay.
- 31 A. The goal was to get close to the peak.
- 32 Q. I understand. Um, after, after you guys came to a rest and everything started to calm
33 down, um, what, what did you do? Were you able to get out of the helicopter or?
- 34 A. Uh, yeah. I looked at Ed. I could see he was bleeding. Uh, I asked him if he was okay.
35 He said, yes. Uh, I immediately, uh, was concerned about, uh, fire.

1 Q. Mm hm (yes).

2 A. And, uh, released myself. And proceeded to get out of the helicopter. Jumped out. Um,
3 went up to the front, assessed Larry. Uh, I could see that he was bleeding.

4 Q. Mm hm (yes).

5 A. Um, and I, he was trying to undo his, his belt.

6 Q. Okay.

7 A. And I told him not to move. Um, I pulled all the cockpit away from him. That was
8 laying on him. I looked at Loren. I knew Loren was unconscious at the time. Um.

9 Q. Was Loren unconscious throughout, until you were taken from the site?

10 A. I, I don't. I don't think Loren made it.

11 Q. Okay.

12 A. Um.

13 Q. Did he ever say anything to you?

14 A. No.

15 Q. No?

16 A. No. I tried to, I called his name out several times. And I saw him, I, I don't want to talk
17 about it.

18 Q. That's fine. Um, anything else that you think I need to know about that I didn't asked
19 about? Or anything else that's important that maybe I, I didn't know to ask? It's okay if
20 there isn't. I mean.

21 A. No.

22 Q. No? Okay. Well, _____. Okay?

23 A. Okay.

24 Q. OKAY. THANK YOU VERY MUCH. THANK YOU. ALL RIGHT. IT'S 1540
25 HOURS ON 1-31-2011 AT UMC SPEAKING WITH DEPUTY BERNSTEIN, BADGE
26 5680, DEPUTY GARDNER. AND MR, UM, PANZICA.

27 WITNESS:

28 NOT REVIEWED

29 DET. GARDNER #1288

30 TRANSCRIBED BY:

31 ROSEMARY SANFORD, FEBRUARY 1, 2011