

**Received**

AUG 06 2012

FAA/AAM630

**Monterey County Sheriff-Coroner**

Office of the Coroner

1414 Natividad Rd. Salinas, California 93906

**Charles Russell Westcott****Coroner Case Number: 20120421**

CLASSIFICATION	Manner of Death <b>Natural</b>		Sub Manner of Death			Deputy Coroner <b>Randal Dyck</b>		
	Type of Medical Examination <b>Autopsy</b>		Time Departed	Time Arrival	Date of Death <b>06/01/2012</b>	Time of Death <b>1059</b>		
DECEDENT PERSONAL DATA	Name-First <b>Charles</b>		Middle <b>Russell</b>	Last <b>Westcott</b>		Marital Status <b>Married</b>		
	Age <b>73</b>	Date of Birth [REDACTED]	Place of Birth <b>WA</b>	Height	Weight	Hair	Eyes	
	Sex <b>M</b>	Teeth	Race <b>White</b>				SSN [REDACTED]	
	Scars, Marks, Tattoos							
RESIDENCE	Address [REDACTED]				City <b>Carmel</b>	State <b>CA</b>	Zip <b>93923</b>	
PLACE OF DEATH	Place <b>Airplane</b>					County <b>Monterey</b>		
	Address [REDACTED]				City <b>Salinas</b>	State <b>CA</b>		
REPORTING INFORMATION	Death Reported By <b>Yolanda Rocha</b>		Agency <b>Salinas Police Department</b>		Date <b>06/01/2012</b>	Time <b>1130</b>	Removed From Scene To <b>Coroner's Facility</b>	
	Address [REDACTED]				City <b>Salinas</b>	State <b>CA</b>	Zip <b>93901</b>	
CAUSE OF DEATH	Immediate Cause: <b>Coronary Artery Atherosclerosis</b> Due to: Due to: Due to:							
OTHER SIGNIFICANT CONDITIONS	<b>None</b>							
INJURY INFORMATION	Place of Injury			Injury at Work?	Date of Injury <b>Unknown</b>	Time <b>Unknown</b>	Estimated	
	Address of Injury			City	County		State	
	Injury Description							
IDENTIFICATION	Identification Method <b>Dental Records</b>			Identified By <b>Dr. Kevin Landon, DDS</b>				
NOTIFIED	Name <b>Nancy Westcott</b>		Relationship <b>Spouse</b>		Mailing Address [REDACTED]			
	Notified By		How Notified <b>Unknown</b>			Date <b>06/01/2012</b>	Time <b>1230</b>	
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION	Pathologist <b>John Hain</b>		Other Investigation		Funeral Home <b>The Paul Mortuary</b>			

Scott Miller, Sheriff-Coroner

[REDACTED] dal Dyck Detective

[REDACTED] Coroner Supervisor



**Office of the Sheriff**  
County of Monterey  
Coroner Division



**PERSONS CONTACTED:**

Yolanda Rocha, police officer  
Salinas Police Department

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Cary Lesch, captain  
Jessie Orozco, engineer  
Tim Watson, firefighter  
Mike Ellison, firefighter  
Salinas Fire Department  
Engine 5311  
65 West Alisal Street  
Salinas, CA 93901  
[REDACTED]

Erik Westcott, son

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Nancy D Westcott, spouse

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

J.R. Robinson, investigator  
Federal Aviation Administration  
1250 Aviation Avenue, Suite 295  
San Jose, CA 95110  
[REDACTED]

**REFERENCES:**

Medical records:

Kevin Landon, DDS

Central Valley Toxicology report # CVT-12-6474

**Narrative:**

On June 1, 2012 at 1059 hours Charles Russell Westcott died while flying his Prowler Jaguar airplane tail number N125CW. The airplane then crashed into the runway at the Salinas Municipal Airport. The crash was heard by Salinas Fire Department Engine 5311. They responded to the crash and promptly extinguished the ensuing blaze. They quickly determined there were human remains in the wreckage. Salinas Police Department also responded and requested a coroner detective respond.

I received a page from Monterey County Communications at 1130 hours. Detective Sergeant Archie Warren and I responded to the scene at the Salinas Airport. On arrival I met with Officer Yolanda Rocha of the Salinas Police Department. She had conducted several interviews with witnesses to crash. Basically they all reported the airplane took off and then continued upward in a steep ascent. The airplane then stalled and turned back around and went straight down impacting on the airport runway and burst into flames. Officer Rocha told me the airplane was owned by Chuck Westcott. He was





**Office of the Sheriff**  
County of Monterey  
Coroner Division



presumed to be the pilot, but nobody had actually seen him in the aircraft that day. Officer Rocha also told me Westcott was a retired airline pilot with several thousand hours of flight time. He was also the pilot who did the wheels up landing at the airport several months prior. One witness had told Officer Rocha that it is ingrained in every pilot that as you lose speed to push the nose forward to gain more speed and lift. It was very odd that the airplane had simply continued going up without an attempt to level off.

I then went to the wreckage and started my investigation. I took digital photographs. The majority of the airplane had burned away. I was told the aircraft was a two position airplane, but I could not identify the second position. The pilot still sat in a metal seat with the control stick between his legs. The pilot had been severely burned.

[REDACTED]

I then spoke with Captain Cary Lesch of the Salinas Fire Department. He told me he had brought Engine 5311 to Salinas Airport to pickup firefighting foam. He saw the airplane take off and he saw it going up and he stopped watching because it made him nervous. He heard the crash a few moments later. He looked and he saw the airplane on fire. He responded his Engine Company to the fire from less than a quarter of a mile away. They immediately extinguished the fire. He said it was a very hot fire and was quickly consuming the airplane. Engine 5311 then helped me remove the remains from the wreckage

Drake Transportation was contacted for removal as per coroner contract. David Fregoso responded. Fregoso transported Westcott to Natividad Medical Center. [REDACTED] Fregoso then transported Westcott to the Monterey County Morgue pending postmortem examination and toxicology studies.

Upon my return to the office I started the process to notify next of kin. Before making contact with anyone I received a phone call from Erik Westcott. He told me he had been contacted by his father's wife Nancy Westcott and told his father's airplane had crashed at the Salinas Airport. I told him it was likely his father, but I had not been able to make positive identification. He told me Nancy was in Northern California, but she was returning to her residence in Carmel. He provided me with a contact phone number.

I then made contact with Nancy Westcott by telephone. Friends had called her to tell they had seen on the local news Chuck's airplane had crashed. She told me nobody else would be flying his airplane although he had used test pilots in the past. I told her I would try to identify him with fingerprints. If that was not possible I would have to have





**Office of the Sheriff**  
County of Monterey  
Coroner Division



a forensic dental examination performed. I explained that would delay the release of his remains for several days.

I later contacted J.R. Robinson of the Federal Aviation Administration. He told he had investigated Westcott when he landed the same aircraft without deploying the landing gear. He thought Westcott had difficulty seeing, but was still able to fly. I provided him contact information for Nancy Westcott. He also thought it odd given Westcott's experience to fly straight up without leveling off to maintain lift.

A postmortem examination was ordered as per California Government Code Section 27491. Coroner's Forensic Pathologist Dr. John Hain conducted it on June 4, 2012 at 0915 hours at the Monterey County Morgue. (Please refer to Dr. Hain's postmortem examination report for specific details). It was determined Charles Russell Westcott died as a result of coronary artery atherosclerosis. Conditions contributing to the death were: no other conditions were cited as contributory in this death.

Central Valley Toxicology conducted toxicology studies. Results: a heart blood sample tested negative for Ethyl Alcohol as well as other common acidic, neutral, and basic drugs.

At the conclusion of the autopsy Dr. Hain had determine that Westcott had not died as a result of the airplane crash. He determined that no rapidly fatal injuries occurred. There was also no soot or scorching in the airway. I contacted the FAA and advised them the cause of death was natural due to occluded coronary arteries and not from the airplane crash.

I later contacted Nancy Westcott to determine Charles's overall health. She told me he was healthy. He did not take medication and his blood pressure was fine. I related to her the findings of the autopsy. I also obtained the name of Charles's dentist so that I could later obtain dental records if necessary.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] I therefore made arrangements to have a forensic dental examination performed. I contacted forensic odontologist Dr. Kevin Landon D.D.S. He procured the records from Westcott's dentist and then compared them to the decedent. Dr. Landon confirmed the decedent as Charles Russell Westcott by dental comparison.

**CONCLUSION:**

Deceased: Charles Russell Westcott  
Date of Death: June 1, 2012

Coroner's Report  
Case Number: 20120421




**Office of the Sheriff**  
County of Monterey  
Coroner Division




In view of the information listed above, as well as the information received from the pathologist, it is concluded this was a death of natural causes and origin, as classified by the World Health Organization Manual of the International Classification of Diseases, Injuries, and Causes of Death (Vol. 1, ICD, 9<sup>th</sup> Revision). No further investigation is warranted by the Coroner's Office.

CASE CLOSED

  
Randal Dyck, Deputy Coroner

July 27, 2012  
Date

  
Coroner Supervisor  
8/1/2012  
Date