

### **MEMORANDUM for RECORD**

Ralph E. Hicks Senior Air Safety Investigator, IIC Eastern Region Aviation

**Date: July 28, 2022** 

Witness Statement: Clay Gibson

NTSB Accident Number: ERA22FA338 - Portland, AR

The following witness statement was provided by Mr. Gibson via telephone.

- Mr. Gibson is a crop scout. He was on a road next to a cotton field at the time. He did not see the collision. He heard a low "whoof" sound and thought a power unit (irrigation well motor) had blown up.
- He then saw smoke and a yellow airplane on fire.
- Proceeded north as fast as he could.
- He looked to his right and saw the wreckage of the other airplane and then knew that there was two of them and they had collided.
- He arrived at the scene to assist at Robbie's airplane; Nelson Wells was there also to help.



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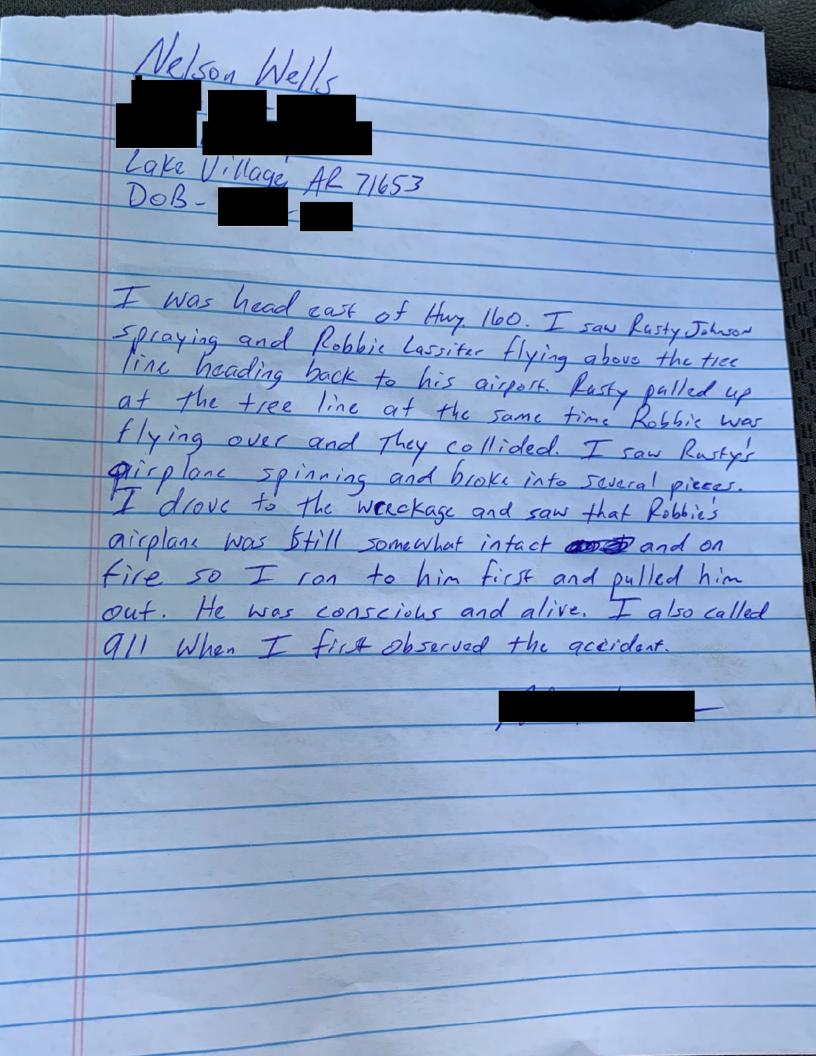
**Date: July 28, 2022** 

Witness Statement: Nelson Wells (

NTSB Accident Number: ERA22FA338 - Portland, AR

The following witness statement was provided by Mr. Wells via telephone.

- Mr. Wells provided a written statement at the accident site. This investigator reviewed the statement with Mr. Wells and he confirmed the statement was still correct.
- Mr. Wells was on a tractor on one of his sod farms. He saw the collision. He stated that Robbie Lassiter was above the tree line, heading southeast, back to his airport. Rusty (Johnson) was spraying at the time, heading south, and pulled up at the same time Robbie flew over.
- They collided. Rusty's airplane started spinning and broke into several pieces. Robbie's airplane came spinning straight down and was still mostly intact but on fire. He rendered aid to Robbie and helped him out of the airplane and called 911.





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**Date: July 28, 2022** 

Witness Statement: Eddie Wooten

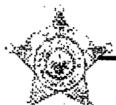
NTSB Accident Number: ERA22FA338 - Portland, AR

The following witness statement was provided by Mr. Wooten via telephone.

- Mr. Wooten provided a written statement at the accident site. This investigator reviewed the statement with Mr. Wooten and he confirmed the statement was still correct.
- He was on Highway 160, westbound, at the time of the accident. About one mile away from the accident site.
- He looked to his right and saw one of the airplanes pitch up and collide with the other airplane. One went into a spin (Robbie's), and the other banked to the left very hard, then straight down.
- They were very low when they hit; there was no way to pull out before the crash.



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