Statement with Huiru Zhang, pilot certificate

On 07/06/2022, I spoke with the passenger Huiru Zhang about the accident she was a passenger involved in on June 28, 2022. The aircraft is a Cessna 120, N2056V.

I asked Ms. Zhang about the accident she was involved in, she stated that she knew the pilot and had been flying a Cessna 150 that the pilot also owned. She said she had never flown a tail dragger and he offered her a ride.

Ms. Zhang stated that the Pilot was doing a pre-flight on the aircraft and he would tell her each item on the checklist and what he was looking at. I asked her if he checked the oil and fuel during the pre-flight, she said he check the oil and pulled a ladder out of the back of the aircraft and checked fuel in each tank. They got in the aircraft and taxied to the run-up area where they did the run-up checks, called the tower and they were cleared for takeoff.

Ms. Zhang stated after they departed the runway and at about 200 feet over the runway the RPM dropped and the engine was running rough, and after a short time the engine started running again for a few seconds but slowed down again. At that point the pilot made a right hand turn back towards the airport and bounced on an access road, she said she didn't remember anything after until they got out of the aircraft.

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