



Fabian Salazar
Air Safety Investigator
Western Pacific Region

Date: February 21, 2023

Subject: WPR23FA110 / Record of Conversation

Contact: Frank King / Witness

In a telephone interview, Mr. King stated that he lived up the road from the accident. He was in the process of putting his child down for a nap when he heard the airplane outside. He went out the back door and saw the airplane travelling from south to north. He said that it looked low, about 50 to 100 ft above the tree line, and that it looked like a "pontoon plane." He stated that the engine was on because he could hear it. It was paralleling Amber Street. It flew past Monica's house. He stated "all the sudden it turned/kicked right then veered left." He said that it looked like it tried to adjust its direction. He said that it was going really slow and had a wobble. When it went down, he said that it went nose first with the tail straight up.

Paul Rho
Air Safety Investigator
Western Pacific Region

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Name: Mitch Fitzhugh / Resident 1000 feet East of the accident site

During the interview, the witness recounted an incident in which he observed the airplane flying above the tree level, but descending, without making any noise. He reported that typically, the airplane would be quite loud, comparable to a snowmobile, but on this occasion, it was silent. The airplane continued to descend while remaining visible over the trees, with the sky below it and above it. The speaker stated that suddenly he saw the wing of the airplane start to tip and then instantaneously rotate 90 degrees, causing the airplane to fall straight to the ground. He noted that he had seen the same airplane flying in the same direction before. He estimated the airplane's speed to be around 45 mph, comparison to driving a car.

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Name: Monica Brisson / Resident about 500 ft south of the accident site

In an interview with the witness, she stated that she saw a red airplane flying very low, directly over her house and just above the tree line. She said that it was flying so low that she quickly went into her house to grab her phone and take a video to show her husband. She said that she ran to the porch and was about to take a video when the plane was still flying in a straight line. However, when it was right over the accident site, its wing tilted to the right, and it took a nosedive, crashing straight into the ground. The incident happened so fast that she didn't have time to record any of it. She immediately called 911. Although the plane was flying low and slow, she didn't hear any sputtering noise. It flew straight over her house, about 100 feet from the ground and 15 to 20 feet above the tree. The speed was about 50 mph compared to driving a car.

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Contact: Rebecca Fordyce / Witness

The interview was conducted at the house where she was located at the time of the accident. The witness was with her husband and together they were working outside at a friend's house. She walked the IIC to an area near the back yard of the residence. She stated that she was talking to her son on the phone when she heard an airplane. She stated that she said, "Oh my God, she's here." She stated that the airplane was low and asked her son if he could hear the plane, to which he stated "yeah." She looked up and saw a little bit of red through the trees, and she said that she thought "he's too low, it's too loud." She then walked the IIC to an area, still on the property but closer to the accident site. She stated that it seemed like the airplane went over the trees, "just barely, and was dropping into the field." She said that she stated "Loren, what are you doing, your too low. You're going to land in the field?" She said that she started running toward the field and called to her husband. As she got closer to the field, she could see that crash site.

She said that she believed that the airplane had overflowed the field and that it then came back toward the field. She said that there was about a minute timeframe where she heard nothing and did not hear a "power up." When asked to show the IIC visually the flight path, she indicated that when she did see the airplane, it was travelling from north to south.

She said that she knew it was Nichole in a red plane. When asked, she said that the passenger had been working with the accident pilot and did not come home on Sunday. The witness said that the accident passenger always came home on the weekends.

The witness explained that the accident passenger was a friend of the family and was hanging out at the pilot's personal hangar located at his residence. She stated that she believed that the passenger had been in the airplane at least three times. The witness said the passenger did explain the places that she had gone in the airplane but did not detail the altitudes or speeds. She stated that the passenger lived in a house just down the street from the accident site.

The witnesses' husband stated that he didn't hear anything because of the chipper he was working nearby. The property owner pointed toward something, but the husband didn't see anything. The husband stated that he checked for a pulse but didn't find one. The husband later stated that the property owner told him that he saw dust, and that caught his attention.

The witness reiterated that in her conversation with her son, he thought that she said that Nichole was coming down the road. She corrected him and said, 'No, I said they're flying too low.'

When asked she said that the engine noise was loud and sounded steady and wasn't sputtering.