



National Transportation Safety Board

Office of Aviation Safety – Central Region

Interview Summary: Darrell Simmons – {CEN14FA434}

Date: 5 August, 2015

Location: Denton Airport

Interviewers: Craig Hatch, IIC

Interviewee: Darrell Simmons

Present: Anita Love

During the Interview, Mr. Simmons stated the following:

- Gave background information on how he knew and met the pilot, Mr. Brewer.
 - Information on airplane ownership and how they worked together on airplanes.
- Mr. Brewer had a dental practice; had a serious automobile accident; had gone through a divorce (so airplanes were not a priority for a while). As well as, Mr. Simmons had taken a different job.
 - After a while Mr. Brewer wanted to get the Cherokee Six going again.
- About a year, or so, before the accident. Four cylinders on the engine had been pulled for maintenance.
 - The two other cylinders were eventually determined to be bad, with the center cylinder leaking oil out the exhaust valve.
 - The two remaining cylinders were pulled and sent out for overhaul.
- After the cylinders were replaced; they conducted an engine run-up. The airplane was then cowed up.
- Mr. Simmons stated that he didn't recall ever having flown in the airplane before, and they he'd heard that the airplane had a long takeoff roll.
 - During the takeoff, about the time they were rotating, they heard a loud "metallic pop".
 - With the remaining runway, he felt that Mr. Brewer didn't think there was enough space to stop; so they went airborne.
 - After getting off the ground, the oil and fuel pressures were all "okay"
 - The tachometer was on the pilot's side, so he couldn't see that
 - The engine was producing power and they could get some climb, but they noticed some wires in front of them, and they weren't high enough to clear them.
 - Just before impact with wires, he grabbed the yoke and pulled back.
 - However, the airplane caught a wire and came down into some trees