



NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD
OFFICE OF AVIATION SAFETY
CENTRAL REGION

January 24, 2018

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

Subject: Matheny Christavia Mk1 airplane, N746LM, accident, Grand Detour, Illinois, January 20, 2018.
Interview with Mrs. Sue Van Oosten, a resident of Grand Detour, IL

I spoke with Mrs. Sue Van Oosten of Grand Detour. She is a realtor with ReMax Reality in Grand Detour. She was identified to me as a witness to the accident. Mrs. Van Oosten did not see the airplane strike the wire crossing the Rock River. What she did see was the airplane go by her house at very low altitude.

Mrs. Van Oosten told me her house is just off a back channel to the Rock River about 8 feet above it's surface. She said the airplane was flying down the back channel and passed her house. She said she was in her living room looking outside as the airplane passed her window, coming within 15 feet of her house. She said she could see it was a red and white colored airplane. She could see the pilot inside and was sure he saw her. She saw the door handle on the cabin door. She estimated that the airplane was about 12 feet above the water. Mrs. Van Oosten said her hearing is not that great, but she heard the airplane coming, which was what caused her to look out the window. The airplane continued down the channel until she lost sight of it. Shortly after that, the airplane struck the wire across the river. Where it crashed was on another back channel right below where her son lives.

Mrs. Van Oosten said after the airplane went by her husband said, "He's just showing off." She recalled telling him, "No one's that stupid."

Mrs. Van Oosten said a lot of airplanes fly over the back channel toward Needer Island. The line he struck provides power to the island. In the summertime there can be as many as 150 boats docked there. It's a scenic place and why airplane's fly over, but they fly over at a much higher altitude than this person.

Mrs. Van Oosten thought at first that he must have an engine problem was the reason he was so low, but after he went by, she knew that wasn't the case. Mrs. Van Oosten's telephone number is [REDACTED]

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