

Witness Statement

Donald G. Hilyard

[REDACTED]
Cushing, Oklahoma 74023
[REDACTED]

- Carey bought the aircraft about 1.5 – 2 years ago from a person in Texas ([REDACTED] Knapp). After he bought the airplane, I would travel with him to Texas for weekends of flying lessons in the aircraft. At the time, Carey was living in Arlington, Texas, and planning back to Oklahoma.
- On the day of the accident, Carey came to the house and told me that he wanted to go flying. We talked for a few minutes, and he seemed like he was in good spirits. Carey headed out to the shop where the aircraft was stored. The next time I saw him he was in the aircraft, on the grass runway/pasture behind the shop.
- I saw the airplane throttle up. The wind was blowing from the south about 10-15 miles per hour. The aircraft was oriented to the north.
- I commented to another employee (Chris) that Carey could not take off unless he was going into the wind, which he was not.
- Carey started the takeoff. The airplane stayed on the ground during the entire takeoff roll (about 300-yards). The engine was running wide open, full power.
- I lost sight of the aircraft behind a tree line.
- Chris and I jumped in my vehicle and headed toward the crash site.
- When we arrived, Carey was on the ground. The aircraft's engine was still running. I called my boss and 911, then I shut off the engine from the cockpit. Rescue personnel showed up and took control of the crash site.
- Two days before the accident, Carey landed the aircraft from the opposite direction, into the wind. And that was his first solo flight in the aircraft.

[REDACTED] Knapp – Previous Owner

Bloom Texas

Phone Number: ??

[REDACTED]