



Timothy Sorensen
Sr. Aviation Accident Investigator
Aviation Safety - Central Region

Date: April 7, 2023
Subject: CEN23FA144 - Oxford, Mississippi
Contact: Rudy Dixon - New Albany Airport Manager

Mr. Dixon noted that a review of airport surveillance video footage revealed that the accident airplane departed from the New Albany Airport about 6:20pm on Wednesday, March 29th. The airplane did not appear to return to the airport. He added that was unusual for the accident pilot to fly that late in the day.

Mr. Dixon reported that the pilot fueled his airplane with auto gas which he brought to the airport in portable fuel containers.

----- *end of summary* -----



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Date: April 8, 2023
Subject: CEN23FA144 - Oxford, Mississippi
Contact: Hubbard Willard - Pilot's Friend

Mr. Willard reported that he observed the airplane fly over his shop about 7:00pm on Wednesday (March 29th). The pilot always flew the same route. The pilot did not circle as he sometimes did. Rather he proceeded directly west. The pilot normally flew low, and Mr. Willard was able to clearly see the pilot and his son in the airplane.

Mr. Willard noted that it was unusual for the pilot to fly in the evening. The pilot also normally called to check in when he returned; however, he did not call that evening. The weather was clear with little or no wind.

Mr. Willard commented that the engine always sounded a little rough in his opinion, a bit like a lawnmower. This was not recent; the airplane had sounded like that for a year or so.

----- end of summary -----



Lafayette County Sheriff's Dept.

Oxford, MS 38655

WITNESS STATEMENT

WITNESS NAME: Brett Willard
STREET ADDRESS: [REDACTED]
CITY/STATE/ZIP: Etta MS 38627
PLACE GIVEN: Shop

DATE OF BIRTH: [REDACTED]
AGE AND SSN: [REDACTED]
PHONE NUMBER: [REDACTED]
LICENSE/DOC. #: [REDACTED]

I, the undersigned, make the following statement voluntary, without threat, duress or promise of reward:

On March 29th Gene was hauling Rock For me. He Hauled His last load and got Back Around 430. He LEFT Here Headed To Airport. They Flew over shop around 7 PM on The 29th. I TXT Him AT 8:50 PM With No Answer. I Called Him on 30th AT 12:23 PM And 12:20 With no Answer. I Tried Him Again AT 3:12 PM With no Answer. Again on 5:33 PM With no Answer. Hanna his Daughter contacted me AT 8:13 PM Asking IF I Talked to him. She was Able To Find His IPad That was Linked To His Cell Phone With His Location. I contacted JEFF Chism and Told him ~~that~~ was going on. Him And Kurt Clayton met us AT Hanna House And we went To The old store + volunteer Fire Dept and met up with other law Enforcement. We went To The location of The Phone And Thats were we Discovered the ~~location~~ Plane. Gene was Laying on ground By Plane. Jake was not There But was soon Found About 750 yards From the Location.

TBW

TBW

TBW

SIGNED [REDACTED]

WITNESS [REDACTED]

WITNESS [REDACTED]