



MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

Douglass Brazy
Air Safety Investigator
Eastern Region Aviation

August 2, 2016

Subject: ERA17CA264, N1639E, Aeronca 7BCM, Accident Date 7/20/16, Connelville, Pennsylvania. – Telephone call and email with witness Gary Sobek.

Mr. Sobek was located at the airport, on the ramp across from the accident airplane when the accident occurred. He provided the following information:

The pilot initially hand propped the engine while the airplane was parked on the grass, and then proceeded to taxi on the paved ramp. Shortly thereafter, the engine stopped. Mr. Sobek called out to the pilot, and offered to hand prop the engine. The pilot indicated that he had forgotten to turn on the fuel (which he then corrected), that the brakes were set, and he declined the offer. He then hand propped the engine again, it started immediately, and the airplane began to move. The pilot attempted to grab the strut several times, however the airplane's horizontal stabilizer struck him and he fell to the ground. After making several turns to the left, the airplane struck Mr. Sobek's truck, then collided with a hangar and stopped. Mr. Sobek went to the airplane and looked inside the cockpit, where he found the throttle control approximately ½ open.

A few days after the accident, Mr. Sobek observed that with the parking brake control fully applied, he was able to push the airplane back and forth by hand in the hangar.

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