



MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

Aaron McCarter
Air Safety Investigator
Eastern Region

Date: July 17, 2018
Person Contacted: Mrs. Kim Cagle (Pilot's wife)
NTSB Accident Number: ERA18LA188

Narrative:

Spoke with Mrs. Cagle via telephone the evening of July 17, 2018 about 1855 eastern daylight time.

When asked about N959RR and when he (husband) acquired it, she stated he purchased it about a month ago. He had owned a similar aircraft 20-25 years ago. But she did not know which model as they have been married for only 2 years. Briefly discussed his previous and current flight experience. She was unaware of any flight experience, except that he had owned a similar aircraft a long time ago. She did not know why he stopped flying. He just wanted to start flying again.

She thinks he flew it at least once with the previous owner before he bought it and was planning on taking lessons from a gentleman in Kimball, Tennessee but she could not recall his name. She stated that she thought this was his first flight after buying the aircraft.

On the day before the accident, the pilot asked their neighbor if they could mow a runway into the property behind the houses. They mowed a runway in a west/east direction. On the day of the accident, they set up some chairs and the pilot asked his wife if she wanted to watch him taxi. She only thought he would be doing some taxi practice and did not realize he was going to fly it.

After dinner, about 1830, she went outside to watch. She witnessed him taxi behind the neighbor's house, then back and forth a few times. Then he taxied to the west end of the runway; she heard the engine rev up and she saw him take off eastbound. The engine sounded fine during takeoff.

He flew east bound, then flew around the house five or six times. Everything seemed normal until the landing. He was in the air for about 10 minutes. She witnessed him on final approach to the east side of the runway headed west. He came in at a slight angle to the runway, touched down then appeared to bounce abruptly on touchdown. The aircraft appeared to skip along, and never stayed on the ground. She did not know what he was attempting to do, it was almost like he was trying to go around and try the landing again, but she's unsure. It was almost like the aircraft "jumped up" when it touched down.

It remained airborne, turned to the right, and the right wing appeared to "slice" into the tree branches. It passed right through the tree branches then dove straight down into the side yard. After the conversation, she thought TDA would be appropriate. [END]