

Partial Transcription of Recorded Passenger Interview with Law Enforcement¹

04:49 Detective Where were you when he was struck by the propeller

04:55 Mrs. Kramer And So the plane has a pilot door and a passenger door. And I was, the the passenger door was open and I was behind it facing my seat taking getting ready ah taking my ipad out of my bag, putting my drink in my cup holder, just getting myself prepared to get in the airplane and leave so that's exactly where I was.

05:23 Detective Ok So you hadn't been in the plane yet but you were getting you were about to get into it

05:26 Mrs. Kramer No I was just getting the the area of my seat ready

05:32 Detective Ok um what was Lanny doing

05:36 Mrs. Kramer Lanny was doing his preflight

05:46 Detective Could you kinda explain that preflight to me

05:48 Mrs. Kramer Walking around the airplane making sure everything was ok that's what pilot's do before they takeoff they have a procedure that they I don't know exactly the every detail but you know he was just doing his thing and I was I can't say I was exactly focused on every detail you know it was late in the afternoon, my mind was going oh we got to go home walk the dogs they've been alone for a while, you know we have been doing this so long it was just like you know I was getting the ipad ready getting myself ready um you know I I wasn't exactly aware of his placement that second.

06:29 Detective So he was around to the front um. Why was he up there Was it just part of his preflight check, or.

06:35 Mrs. Kramer I don't know I think yeah but I actually don't know that second what went through his mind why he was in the area of the propeller. **Where I was what got my attention is that all of a sudden I heard the propeller move which is unusual I heard it like in a split second like it was firing up you know like when it starts. So I looked up from the corner of my eye I saw his like silhouette there and I saw him fall to the ground. And I can't tell you exactly what the propeller was doing but its like it was trying to start which makes no sense because the keys I found in his pocket so.

07:30 Detective Do you have that key with you

07:31 Mrs. Kramer yeah

07:32 Detective Can I see it

¹ Time is elapsed. The recorded interview occurred on July 27, 2018, at 0920 hours local. The interview of Mrs. Kramer was conducted by Detective Andy Wattenbarger of the Cleveland Police Department. Also present was another individual by the first name Andrea. An * indicates unintelligible communication.

07:33 Mrs. Kramer um so that that is not supposed to happen.

07:39 Detective right um had he tried

07:42 Mrs. Kramer And then I as soon as I heard that and I saw that I jumped around the door and went over to him. And he was on the ground, his face was in a pool of blood, I think the propeller stopped at that point cause but I it's blurry. I went to him, and saw he was on the ground, I saw he was breathing. I went the 9 steps into the FBO said call 911 there's been a terrible accident and I went back to him.

08:17 Detective Right um

08:19 Mrs. Kramer so I don't know like it stopped but I don't know exactly

08:23 Detective I understand you you saw the propeller moving

08:27 Mrs. Kramer Yes I saw the propeller moving and I heard it.

08:30 Detective OK

08:31 Mrs. Kramer But I don't know

08:32 Detective so it

08:33 Mrs. Kramer for how long

08:34 Detective So it sounded if I understand what you told me it it sounded like the engine was trying to fire.

08:38 Mrs. Kramer trying to fire

08:41 Detective had he attempted to start the airplane prior to going around front of it

08:46 Mrs. Kramer No No I don't think he was in the airplane, inside the airplane

13:27 Detective Is there anything that would make that engine attempt to start without the key because as you can see the keys not in it and um your telling me that you got the key out of his pocket

13:40 Mrs. Kramer The key was not in the airplane. Cause I looked there and the the people from the FBO looked in there that was the first thing we all looked for and we couldn't see the key which made me think it was in his pocket but I couldn't verify until I got to the hospital when they gave me his things it was in his pocket.

13:54 Detective So you got you got the key from the hospital staff at Erlanger

13:59 Mrs. Kramer yeah in in right in the bag with all of his clothes

14:04 Detective Did they take it out of his pocket

14:05 Mrs. Kramer No

14:06 Detective or did you take it out of his pocket

14:07 Mrs. Kramer No I took it out of his pocket I they didn't know to look for it, I looked for it

14:42 Discussion was made by Mrs. Kramer and the Detective about why the magnetos could work if the key was not in the ignition.

14:59 Mrs. Kramer That was always Lanny's safety thing he would always make sure the key was not in. He would triple check that the key wasn't in.

15:06 Detective Would he normally put it in his pocket or I think some of the standard protocol stick it up here

15:11 Mrs. Kramer either in his pocket either in his pocket or on the seat, cause he would ask me is it you know is it on the seat and and I would verify yes or something