

I contacted Mr. Patrick Harkin, whose number I had been provided to me by Mr. Howard Plagens of the NTSB. Mr. Harkin was related to Ms. Kenny. He put Ms. Kenny on the phone. I asked her to describe what happened (In ref. to N7LM).

She said they departed Corona Airport. The takeoff was fine and they were sightseeing. They were over Lake Matthews. She was not sure how long. Bill was making some turns over the lake and around the area. She thought they were turning to go back, and the plane shook violently from side to side. Bill said oh sorry about that, and it won't happen again. About 1 minute later the plane did it again. Then the engine cut off. All noise disappeared. She thinks the propeller stopped moving. She knew they were falling down. It felt straight up, nose to the ground. Then they hit the mast disguised as a tree.

Patrick stepped in and said that he was there on the ground (at the airport) throughout the whole thing. He has video that he took of the departures, and of one landing now in the possession of the family. He said that a cousin (Patrick's niece), Ms. Catherine Smith, went up in the airplane first. That flight took about 25 minutes. She is now back in Ireland. He said Bill was working to fix the Go-Pro on the second flight, because it had stopped intermittently on the first flight. He also said that the aircraft fuel gauge had been removed (somewhat previously) before these flights, and that a picture of the aircraft fuel gauge on the airplane can be seen on Bill's facebook page. He said the gauge hangs from the upper wing. Mr. Harkin stated that he did not observe the pilot perform any kind of pre-flight activities.

Ms. Kenny can be reached in Ireland at [REDACTED].

[REDACTED]
David S. Ryon
Riverside FSDO
7/18/2015

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