

Pilot from page A1

Club, whose four members all used the Cessna.

"Now (the club) owns 1,400 pounds of scrap metal," Kern joked.

"Everything about the flight was unremarkable until the travelers reached Mettetal and tried to land at about 10:30 p.m."

"Basically, there were rather (high) winds, and when I turned for my final approach, I was much too high," Kern said. "I tried to go around and do my approach over again, but when I opened the throttle, the engine didn't respond."

"By then, the plane was too high to make the runway but too low to turn around. Kern quickly looked for a large, open area without any structures where he could try to land."

"My intent then was to make a 90-degree turn and ditch the airplane into the area along Joy Road," he said. "I put the plane into a hard turn into the only area I could see in the dark night."

Kern cranked the plane into a hard left, but the left wingtip touched the ground. The Cessna pitched forward, and the nose and front bulkhead hit the ground, greatly slowing its forward thrust. The plane finally came to rest in a vacant field near Grayes Greenhouse.

I could see him hanging out of the door by his seat belt, unconscious. He looked much worse than his condition really was.

William Kern
—pilot

Kern remained conscious through the crash; Bourque did not. After the plane had stopped, Kern turned everything off, got out of his seat belt, and turned to check on his friend.

"I could see him hanging out of the door by his seat belt, unconscious," Kern recalled. "He looked much worse than his condition really was."

After making sure that the plane wasn't leaking fuel, Kern undid Bourque's belt and dragged him from the wreckage. Police and firefighters arrived almost instantly.

That night, a pilot friend of Kern's named Jeannie Hunter saw the crash on the TV news and recognized the Cessna. She called Kern's house and asked to speak to him.

"The response she got (from my wife) was, 'He's out flying. Can I take a message?'" said Kern. "Jeannie took quite a jolt and mustered the nerve to say

what she had to say then. . . It's a pretty tough job. I appreciate her having the courage."

Meanwhile, both men were taken to St. Joseph Mercy Hospital in Superior Township. Kern was bruised and received 24 stitches in his scalp. Bourque had a mild concussion, bruises, a small nose fracture, and received 12 stitches.

"It was a pretty easy penalty to get off with," said Kern. "If you ask any pilot about the prospect of a 'dead-stick' landing at night, it turns them pale. It did me."

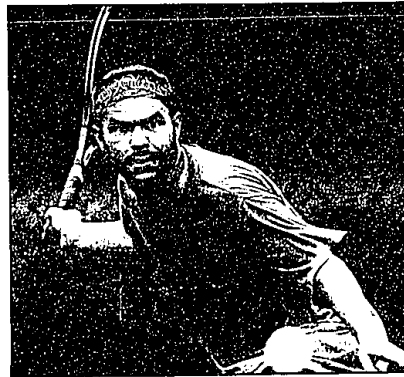
He won't openly blame the throttle malfunction for the crash, citing the ongoing investigation by the FAA and the National Transportation Safety Board.

Kern admitted nervousness about his upcoming interview by the FAA, but said he is also looking forward to it. "I'm really anxious to learn from it. I feel good about my role (in the crash) and how I performed."

As for flying again, he has no reservations.

"I won't hesitate," said Kern. "I'll be right back at it, and I believe (Bourque) will, too. I train extensively, and enjoy the study of the art and magic of flying."

Tourney tune-up



STAFF PHOTO BY SHARON LEMLEY

Eye on the ball: Carl Badyne of Farmington, who had Tuesday off from his job as a flight attendant for Northwest Airlines, plays a co-worker, Craig Penn, at Shiawassee Park. Badyne said he may play in the tennis tournament next week during Founder's Festival. The city of Farmington Hills sponsors softball (July 11-13) and sand volleyball (July 12-13) tournaments, in addition to tennis (July 10-13). For details or registration information, call 473-9570.

MILITARY NEWS

GUARD GRAD

Air National Guard Tech. Sgt. Olivia L. Burnett has graduated from the information management apprentice course at Keesler Air Force Base in Biloxi, Miss.

Burnett is the daughter of Arnette Carter of Farmington Hills.

BASIC TRAINING

Army Pvt. John S. Miller has entered basic infantry training at Fort Benning, Ga.

During the training, he will receive instruction in drill and ceremonies, map reading and basic combat skills.

Miller is the son of Richard and Deborah Miller of Farmington Hills.

OBITUARIES

NINA ZENA RUDICH LYNN

Nina Zena Rudich Lynn, 74, died June 26 in New Hampshire.

Formerly of Farmington, Mrs. Lynn was a past president of the Hill and Dale Garden Club and a bookkeeper. She earned a degree in education from Eastern Michigan University and taught second grade for several years. She was also the owner and operator of House and Laundry Bear Grease manufacturing company.

She is survived by husband, Arthur C. of Bristol, Fla., and Holly, Mich.; sons, John of Florence, S.C. and Dwight of Holly, Mich.; daughter, Annie Frye of Hopkinton; brother, George of Washington, Mich.; and grandchildren, Stephen, Spencer, Lauren, Marshall, Danny and Cate.

Funeral services were held June 29 at Heeney-Sundquist Funeral Home in Farmington.

DONALD C. RAYMO

Donald C. Raymo, 80, died June 28 at Botsford General Hospital in Farmington Hills.

Born in Ludington, Mich., Mr. Raymo was a draftsman and tool designer for the Gorman Tool Company. He was a member of the Ionic Lodge #474 F. & AM, the Scottish Rite and Moslem Shrine and an officer of order of Eastern Star Loyalty Southfield Ionic #437.

He is survived by wife, Mary Raymo; son, Chaplain Major Michael Raymo; and daughter, Kathleen; and two grandchildren.

Funeral services were held July 2 at Nardin Park Methodist

Church in Farmington Hills. Arrangements made by McCabe Funeral Home in Farmington Hills.

Memorial contributions can be sent to the American Cancer Society.

BERTHA R. RYALL

Bertha R. Ryall, 78, died June 29 at the Charter House of Farmington Hills.

A resident of Farmington Hills for 50 years, Mrs. Ryall was a homemaker and a bartender many years ago.

She is survived by brother, John Spaller of Arizona; sisters, Luanna Jones of Fenton and Virginia Henke of Waterford.

A private service was held at Thayer-Rock Funeral Home in Farmington.

Memorial contributions can be

sent to the American Heart Association, P.O. Box 721129, Berkeley 48072; or the American Lung Association, 18860 W. Ten Mile, Southfield 48075.

RICHARD A. GREEN

Richard A. Green, 84, died June 30 in Farmington Hills.

A resident of Farmington Hills for over 30 years, Mr. Green was a professional mechanical engineer responsible for many innovations in manufacturing technology including several patent awards. He was a member of Nardin Park United Methodist Church in Farmington Hills, the Society of Manufacturing Engineers and the Engineering Society of Detroit. He was on the board of the Detroit Engineering Institute and vice president of Pioneer Engineering and Manufacturing. During WWII he was an avid Civil Air Patrol flyer.

He is survived by wife, Evelyn; sons, Richard and Robert; daughter, Dr. Jeanette Green; and granddaughter, Mariah.

Funeral services are scheduled for 11 a.m. today, July 3, at McCabe Funeral Home in Farmington Hills.

MARY VIRGINIA LARSON

Mary Virginia Larson, 73, died June 27 at Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit.

She is survived by sons, Larry Pugh of Adrian and Bill Nugent of Oak Park; daughters, Doris Malechie of Farmington and Charlotte Day of Redford; eight grandchildren; and four great grandchildren.

Visitation was June 30 at UHT Funeral Home.

Memorials can be sent to Purple Heart or the Henry Ford Village Hospice.

CHRIS FRANCISCO

Chris Francisco, 35, died May 30 in Memphis, Tenn.

A graduate of the Air Force Academy, Mr. Francisco was employed as a commercial pilot for Northwest Airlines.

He is survived by his parents, Suzanne and Terry of Sacramento, Calif.; sisters, Michele Hebrank of West Hills, Calif. and Yvette Podlogar of Highlands Ranch, Co.; brother, Neal of Sacramento, Calif.; nieces, Rachele, Reece, Rebecca and Megan; and nephews, Matthew and Scott.

Funeral services were held at Nicoletti Funeral Home.

Donations can be made to the Center for Animal Protection and Education in care of Francisco Family, 160 Westcott Way Sacramento, CA 95807.

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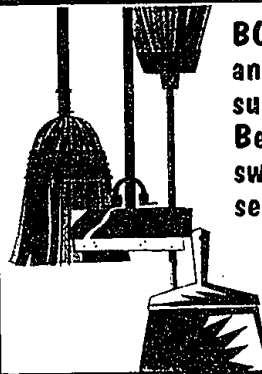


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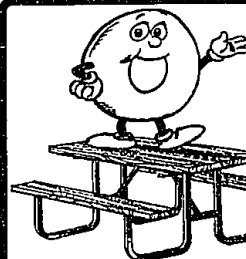
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