

Single engine craft plummets into farm field-- Grinnellian, Two Others Die

NO. 18

in Plane Crash

ROBERT E. NOON

Three Iowans, including a Grinnell man, were killed Sunday morning when the single-engine Cherokee 140 they were flying crashed in a farm field west of Newburg.

Although the exact cause of the fatal crash was not determined immediately, authorities speculated that poor weather conditions caused the pilot to lose control.

Killed were:

Robert G. Noon, 28, of Grinnell, a purchasing agent for Farmhand, Inc., brother-in-law of the pilot.

Carroll D. Berkenbosch, 35, of Newton, the pilot, commercial manager for United Telephone Co. of Iowa.

Donald R. Robison, 28, of Cedar Falls, a recent graduate of the University of Northern Iowa.

'Straight Down'

A witness to the crash, William Hauersperger, 28, of rural Gilman, said the plane "headed straight down" to the ground. The crash occurred at about 3:15 a.m., and Berkenbosch's wife said the three were on their way to a "flight breakfast" in Oelwein.

The plane hit the ground with such force that the propeller and engine were almost buried by the impact. The wreckage did not scatter beyond 50 feet, although one of the bodies was thrown from the plane at impact. Authorities said all three men died instantly.

Visibility at the time of the crash was described as poor, with some haze and fog.

Federal Aviation Agency personnel were on hand to investigate the crash Sunday.

Noon, who lived at 1221 Sixth Ave., Grinnell, was born March 30, 1942, at Monroe. He was a graduate of Monroe High School and Central College, Pella. He and his family moved to Grinnell from Newton in February of this year.

He was married on July 16, 1964, to Sheryl Polz at Blairsburg. A member of the Methodist Church in Newton, he was also a member of the Bucks social fraternity and the Central Iowa Purchasing Agents Association.

He is survived by his wife, Sheryl; his son Chad, 3; his four week-old daughter Angelia; his mother, Mrs. Helene Noon of Monroe; his sister-in-law, Mrs. Carroll (Diane) Berkenbosch of Newton; and his father and mother-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Polz of Blairsburg.

Joint Funeral

Joint funeral services for Noon and Berkenbosch are set for 1 p.m. Tuesday at the First United Methodist Church in Newton. Burial will be in the Monroe Cemetery.

Berkenbosch is survived by his wife, Diane; a daughter, 18; two sons, Steven, 11, and Scott, 7; his mother, a sister, and two brothers.

Robison is survived by his wife, Janet; a son, Todd, 10; a daughter; and a brother.