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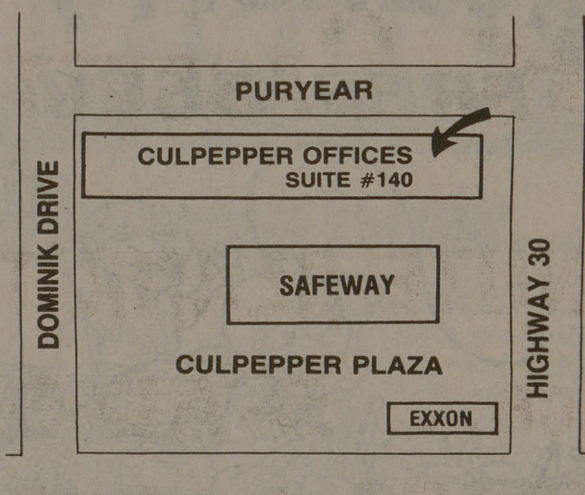
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State

Passenger safely lands plane after pilot dies of heart attack

United Press International
LITTLE ROCK, Ark. — The pilot of a small private aircraft died of a heart attack in midflight, leaving the plane in the hands of a totally inexperienced passenger who was safely talked down by two flight instructors who flew alongside him.

John Ussery, 29, of Maumelle, landed the four-passenger Rockwell Aero Commander aircraft at Little Rock's Adams Field at 5:25 p.m. Tuesday, following instructions radioed to him by Larry Cain, 33, of Arkadelphia, Ark., and Joe Ropp of Okolona, Ark.

Paramedics tried to revive Ellsworth Alexander Moore, 55, of Hot Springs Village, Ark., who originally piloted the plane, but he was pronounced dead on arrival at a local hospital.

"At first I thought it was a joke,"

Ussery told police shortly after landing.

"It was comparable to a student's first landing," Cain said. "He bumped it once, but it wasn't a bad bump. He drove it down the center line and even reached over and tripped off the engine by himself."

"He did a super job and remained calm, and that's the key to the whole operation."

Police said Moore, Ussery and John David Boyd, 60, of Hot Springs, Ark., were flying south near Malvern when Moore turned to Ussery and asked him if he thought he could take over the controls of the plane for a while.

"Then he started coughing and blacked out," Ussery told police.

Ussery said he thought it was a joke because Moore had shown him the plane's instruments and

explained some of the fundamentals of flying before they began the flight.

However, Ussery said when he couldn't revive Moore, he took control of the plane and started flying at an altitude of about 2,500 feet while radioing for help.

A radio operator at a control tower in nearby Arkadelphia heard the distress calls and told Cain and Ropp of the situation.

The two instructors told Ussery to continue flying along Interstate 30 until they could catch up with him. They then jumped in their Cessna and caught the distressed plane just south of Malvern.

Maintaining constant contact with Ussery, the pair succeeded in turning him around and headed to the Little Rock airport, about 20 minutes away.

The crash-rescue unit of the Lit-

tle Rock Fire Department was waiting at the airport, but the plane landed without incident.

Cain said the most dramatic moments came when Ussery switched his radio to the tower landing frequency — when he could have lost contact with the tower — and when he had to lower the landing gear, which affects the flight characteristics of the plane.

"We kept him going at a faster air speed than normal, because we didn't want him to stall out," Cain said.

He said neither he nor Ussery had talked down a plane before and the ordeal had its scary moments. Asked if he would do it again if necessary, he said, "You bet your sweet ass I will. It's all I could do."

Man, daughter slain in home

United Press International
CONROE — One man has been charged with murder and deputies are searching for two other suspects in the execution-style slayings of a Conroe man and his 9-year-old daughter.

Harry Carter, 48, was charged with murder Tuesday in the shooting deaths of bar owner Craig J. Wiecht and his daughter, Karen. Carter was being held in Montgomery County jail in lieu of \$100,000 bond.

Weicht's wife, Caroline, 30, was admitted to an undisclosed hospital, where she was being guarded by deputies and police. Authorities refused to comment on Mrs. Weicht's condition.

Montgomery County Chief

Deputy Steve Graeter said investigators discarded robbery as a motive and said the killings were apparently business related.

Graeter said, "We feel this is a personal vendetta between a group of people or individuals over business transactions."

"This was an execution-style murder with the intent of leaving no witnesses. The little girl did like any kid, she was covering up trying to hide on the bed."

Graeter said two men may have been in the house during the shooting late Monday, and they and someone outside had walkie-talkies. Deputies were searching for the two men late Tuesday night.

Deputies identified Carter as a former business associate of Wiecht, but gave no other details.

A trace was put out on Weicht's 1979 peach-colored Lincoln Continental, which deputies believe was stolen from the driveway.

Weicht had been shot twice in the head. His body was found in the entry to his home.

His daughter's body was found shot twice in the head under the covers of a bed in the master bedroom. Graeter said the shots killing the girl were fired through a pillow, possibly to muffle the sound.

Mrs. Weicht was found in a guest bedroom where she had crawled from the master bedroom

after being shot, investigators said. She apparently tried to call a phone, but the outside lines had been cut, Graeter said.

The sheriff's department received a call before 8 p.m. Monday reporting a burglary shooting at the house, but no valuable articles were touched.

Weicht, 30, owned three homes in the Houston area — the Rockwell, the Nugget and Cheers.

Deputies said a gun was located at the home of an apprehended suspect and other guns were found at his house.

Odessa schools segregated

MIDLAND — A visiting federal judge ruled an inequity of opportunity existed between schools in the Ector County Independent School District — mak-

ing the district liable for maintaining racially segregated schools.

U.S. Judge Fred Shannon of San Antonio said his greatest concern was that minority students in

Odessa's south side had to transfer to other schools to receive a full range of educational opportunities.

"That concerns me very greatly," he said. "Young people at Ector (High School) have less than equal opportunities."

The Ector school, which does not provide college preparatory classes such as Latin and physics, does allow students to attend classes at Odessa and Permian high schools.

However, Shannon noted that such transfers upset student schedules and that those students who do transfer classes miss out on extracurricular activities at their home schools.

"This policy must have a chilling effect on the students," the judge said. "A greater sacrifice is being asked of the Ector students to get a background for college than is asked of students from Permian and Odessa."

Shannon also said the district

had assigned the most experienced and better teachers to the city's north schools and that "children on the south side are not exposed to teachers as good as those on the north side."

The judge concluded that two factors demonstrate an inequity in opportunity. One is the remedy is necessary to eliminate the inequities as perceived by the students.

Shannon scheduled preliminary hearings Wednesday before Justice Department attorney Joseph Rich and school attorney Jack Tidwell to seek to remedy the situation.

Tidwell said the district tried to improve the situation by hiring more minority and bilingual education teachers and attorneys representing the parent and Crucial, a southern parents group, "don't seem to want to give us credit for our efforts."

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