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Buffalo Pilot, Two Passengers Killed

Craft Falls in Wooded Area Mile From Port, as Fog Obscures Lights

BULLETIN

CAA Official Frank Borys reported at noon that he had completed the investigation at the site of the crash but that he could not disclose any of his findings until a full report is made to the Air Safety Board in New York City. He said that the report could not be made for several days.

By LARRY HALE

6/30/52

The Civil Aeronautics Administration today opened an investigation into circumstances surrounding the deaths of a Buffalo pilot and two Cheektowaga men, who were killed about 11 P.M. Sunday when their single-engine, four-seat Bellanca plane crashed into a densely wooded area a mile north of Jamestown Municipal Airport.

The dead, identified from papers on their crushed and mangled bodies, are: Edward C. Coyle, 44, of 1640 Bailey Avenue, Buffalo; Arthur M. Michalski, 26, of 19 Chopin Place, Cheektowaga; and Conrad R. Ratajczak, 33, of 25 Chopin Place, Cheektowaga.

Frank Borys, in charge of the CAA office at Buffalo, and W. F. Placek, also of the Buffalo CAA office, arrived at the crash site this morning to start their investigation.

The plane crashed into thick woods on the farm of Peter James, Turner Road, Town of Ellicott, after circling the Jamestown Municipal Airport some "19 or 20 times" in an apparent attempt to land there.

Warren W. Skelton, airport manager, who was at the airport at the time, said he turned the airport lights on when he heard the plane. However, he said "it was so foggy that you could hardly see your hand before your face" and that the pilot probably could not see enough of the lights to make a landing.

Circling Back

The plane apparently was circling back toward the airport when it crashed. It clipped off the tips of several trees about 100 feet in the air for a distance of some 300 feet before it smashed into a large Maple tree about 50 feet off the ground and was hurled into the earth.