

2 Area Women, Doctor Killed in Plane Crash

An intensive investigation was underway in Bradford, Pa., today into the causes of a Allegheny Airlines crash that took the lives of 20 persons, including three from Lancaster County.

A young Lancaster woman and 19 others survived the Christmas Eve crash into a frozen marsh about three miles from the Bradford Regional Airport.

Among those killed were:

D R. JOHN MAURER BOYD, 42, chief radiologist at Erie Osteopathic Hospital. He commuted to Lancaster every weekend where his wife, Hattie, is a pathologist at Lancaster Osteopathic Hospital.

MISS ESTHER LUTZ, 33, director of nursing at the Holland, Mich., City Hospital. She previously was a nurse at Lancaster General Hospital and was enroute here to see her parents, the Rev. and Mrs. Clarence Lutz of Elizabethtown.

MISS CHRISTINE L. FARLOW, 19, of Detroit, a reservation clerk for Delta Airlines, enroute to Lancaster County to visit her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Howard R. Farlow of Hopeland, north of Lititz.

Among the 27 survivors was:

MISS RUTH ZIMMERMAN, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas M. Zimmerman, 1306 Marietta Ave. She is a laboratory technician at Mt. Sinai Hospital, Cleveland, and was headed home for the holidays.

START INVESTIGATION

A spokesman for Allegheny said this morning that an investigation into the causes of the crash has been launched by the National Transportation Safety Board, but that it may be months before any determination is made.

Capt. Cary Mull, pilot, and Richard Gardener, co-pilot, were both killed.

The Allegheny spokesman

said the Bradford airport has no control tower and no radar, although it does have an Instrument Landing System to aid pilots.

When the crash occurred, light snow was falling and a strong wind was blowing.

'EYEBALL' LANDING

Landings and takeoffs at Bradford, the airline spokesman said, are largely an "eyeball operation."

The Bradford airport has a Federal Aviation Agency ground station where flight information and weather data are compiled. The airport also receives aid from radar facilities at Erie, which assigns landing and takeoff priorities.

Among the crash survivors is Mrs. Terry Gross, 20, of York, granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Gebhart, 310 S. West End Ave., and Mr. and Mrs. Winfield Morrison, 904 Elm Ave.

Mrs. Gross, a student at Michigan University, was admitted to Bradford Hospital with frozen feet and cuts and bruises.

Her husband, Gregory, drove to York a day prior to the crash but she decided to fly because she had a late class. He also is a student at Michigan.

COLLECTING FACTS

The 35-man investigating team, headed by Russell J. Abbott, tramped through foot-deep snow in its preliminary investigation.

"At this point in the investigation, all we're doing is collecting facts," said Abbott, air safety director of the National Transportation Safety Board.

The Allegheny spokesman said the Convair 580 twin-engine turbo prop craft isn't the same type as the F-27 planes which were grounded temporary for inspection when metal fatigue was discovered after a crash in Alaska.