

City Home Builder, Wife Die In Plane Crash Near Phoenix

By Martha Man

JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

Albuquerque home builder Stephen Hacker, 44, and his wife Antoinette, 43, were killed when the small experimental airplane they were in crashed Sunday near Phoenix.

The plane slammed into a 3,200-foot peak east of Phoenix, according to an Associated Press report. The crash occurred as the two were taking off from Falcon Field in Mesa, Ariz., to return to Albuquerque.

A spokesman for the Maricopa County Sheriff's Department said he did not know whether Hacker or his wife was piloting the plane.

Investigators said visibility was poor and there were winds gusting up to 40 mph at the time of the crash.

Mrs. Hacker was a certified flight instructor, said Russ Peacock, owner of Peacock's Flying Service where she worked on a contract basis.

Peacock said the aircraft the Hackers were flying was a Glassair II, an aircraft built from a kit.

Hacker owned and operated Hacker Ltd., a custom-home building firm that had been active in the Sandia Heights, Tanoan and Executive Hills subdivisions, his sister, Sammie Schick, said Monday.

A double memorial service for the couple will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday at Heights Cumberland Presbyterian Church, 8600 Academy NE, under the direction of French Mortuary.

Hacker began his construction company in the early 1980s, Schick said. "It was always something he wanted to do."

She said her brother also was a licensed pilot.

The Hacker family moved to Albuquerque in 1960 from Dallas when Hacker was 13, she said. He was a graduate of the University of New Mexico with bachelor's and master's degrees in business.

Mrs. Hacker, a native of California, was a graduate of the University of Hawaii.

The couple are survived by two daughters, Karen, 17, and Cheri, 15, both students at La Cueva High School.

Other survivors include Hacker's parents, Bob and Juanita Hacker of Albuquerque; sisters Rebecca, Sammie and Deborah; and a brother, Larry.

Mrs. Hacker is survived by her parents, Paul and Muriel Mochel of Los Angeles, and a sister, Paula, of San Francisco.



Stephen and Antoinette Hacker Die in experimental plane