

October 28, 1991

## Albuquerque couple killed in plane crash in Arizona

### Staff and wire

An Albuquerque couple was killed when their small experimental plane crashed into a 3,200-foot peak east of Phoenix, officials said.

The victims of the 9 a.m. Sunday crash were identified as Steve and Toni Hacker, both 44, said Duane Brady, Maricopa County Sheriff's Office spokesman.

An employee at Albuquerque's Coronado Airport said this morning that the Hackers both were pilots. Toni Hacker was a flight instructor at Coronado and her husband owned a construction company, Hacker Ltd.

The couple have two teenage daughters, Karen and Sheri, who attend La Cueva High School. Both girls were in Albuquerque at the time of the crash.

Please see **CRASH/A4**

**HACKER**—Steve W. Hacker, 44, a resident of Albuquerque since 1959, died Sunday, October 27, 1991. Steve and his wife, Toni, died while enjoying one of their favorite activities, which was flying together.

"Put out my hand, and touched the face of God"

He is survived by his two daughters, Karen and Cheri Hacker of the home; parents, Bob and Juanita Hacker of Sandia Park; sisters, Becki Brown and husband, Frank, of Grand Junction, CO, Sammie Schick and husband, John, and Debbie Mulligan and husband, Ed, all of Albuquerque; brother, Larry Hacker of Albuquerque; and father-in-law and mother-in-law, Paul and Muriel Mochel of Studio City, CA. Steve was a custom home builder. He owned and

## CRASH From A1

Authorities did not say which of the Hackers was piloting Sunday's flight.

The couple was flying in a fiberglass aircraft with non-retractable landing gear and a low wing design. The plane, called a "Glassair," is sold as a home-built kit.

Coronado Air Center President Jim Dean said the Hackers were "exceptional pilots and really great people."

"Toni was an excellent employee and a neat person," Dean said.

Family members could not be reached for comment.

Officials said the crash occurred shortly after the pilot radioed that the plane was going down.

The plane had taken off from Falcon Field in Mesa minutes before it crashed about five miles east of Arizona 87 in the Four Peaks area of the Mazatzal Mountains, officials said.

Maricopa County sheriff's deputies said the plane was headed to Albuquerque.

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

The wreckage was located by a TV station helicopter pilot about two hours after the crash.

operated Hacker Ltd., and was a member of Albuquerque Board of Realtors and Albuquerque Builders Association. Steve enjoyed many sport activities at Lake Powell. He was an avid scuba diver, water skier and snow skier. He was a U.S. Marine in Vietnam, serving with Force Recon Unit. He enjoyed flying and even built his own airplane. He was very knowledgeable in all aspects of life. Steve was truly devoted to his wife and two daughters. Memorial services will be held Saturday, 2:00 p.m., at Heights Cumberland Presbyterian Church, 8600 Academy Road NE, with Pastor Larry Moss and Bruce Dinkel officiating. French Mortuary, Wyoming Blvd. Chapel, 7121 Wyoming Blvd. NE, is handling arrangements. "Love is Eternal". I Cor. 13:8.