

John E. Stanley

WHS Years: F, So
Continued at West High School

2 City Men Die in Area Plane Crash

Two young Madison men were killed Saturday morning [October 11, 1969] in an airplane crash near Mazomanie.

The victims were:

John E. Stanley, 22, of 2905 Columbia Rd. and Allen J. Thomas, 23, of 1212 Sweetbriar Rd.

Sheriff's Detective Lawrence Larson said the plane, heading in a westerly direction, crashed about 4:18 a.m. in dense brush and trees on the Harvey Ninedorf farm about 1 mile north of Highway 19.

He said the plane was en route from Minneapolis to Madison. It had contacted the Truax Tower about 4:10 a.m. and estimated that it was about 20 miles from Madison and would land about 4:15 a.m.

After that, nothing more was heard. The plane was found after a search involving Civil Air Patrol planes and two helicopters. A helicopter from the Civil Air Patrol spotted the plane at 2:30 p.m.

Larson said the westerly flight direction at the time of the crash indicated that the the pilot, Thomas, either was having trouble with the plane or had become lost.

He said the plane came down in woods, cutting through several small trees, then colliding with a tree about 2.5 feet in diameter. Debris was spread over an area 500 yards in diameter, he said.

The airplane, a single engine Cessna 182, was demolished, but the victims were found strapped in the wreckage, Larson said.

He said the time of the crash had been determined according to the time that one of the victims' watch had stopped.

Mr. Stanley was born in Madison and was a 1964 graduate of West High School. He was a fifth-year student in mechanical engineering at the University of Wisconsin and a member of Luther Memorial Church.

Hunting in 1969

Surviving are his mother, Mrs. Gladys G. Stanley, 2905 Columbia Rd.; his father Emerson D., 4403 Tokay Blvd.; a brother, James R., 5721 Piping Rock Rd.; and a sister, Mrs. William Eberhard, Denver, Colo.

The funeral will be 1:30 p.m. Tuesday in the Joyce Funeral Home, 5701 Odana Rd., where friends may call after 4 p.m. Monday. Burial will be in New Glarus Cemetery. Memorials may be made for allergy research.

Mr. Thomas lived in Madison for 21 years and was a student at the University of Wisconsin.

Surviving are his mother, Mrs. H. L. Thomas, 1219 Sweetbriar Rd.; a brother, John Rees Thomas, 2900 Barbara Dr.; and a maternal grandmother, Mrs. B. J. Indhelder, Plain View, Neb.

Funeral arrangements are pending at the Frautschi Funeral Home, 3910 Speedway Rd.

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