



Donald Staley Flynn

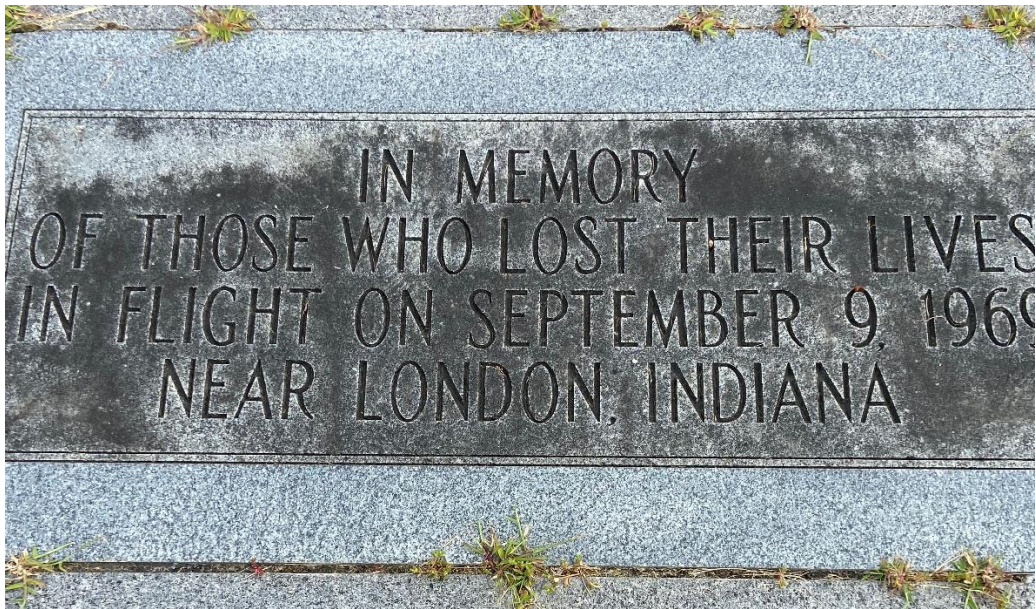
1921 - 1969

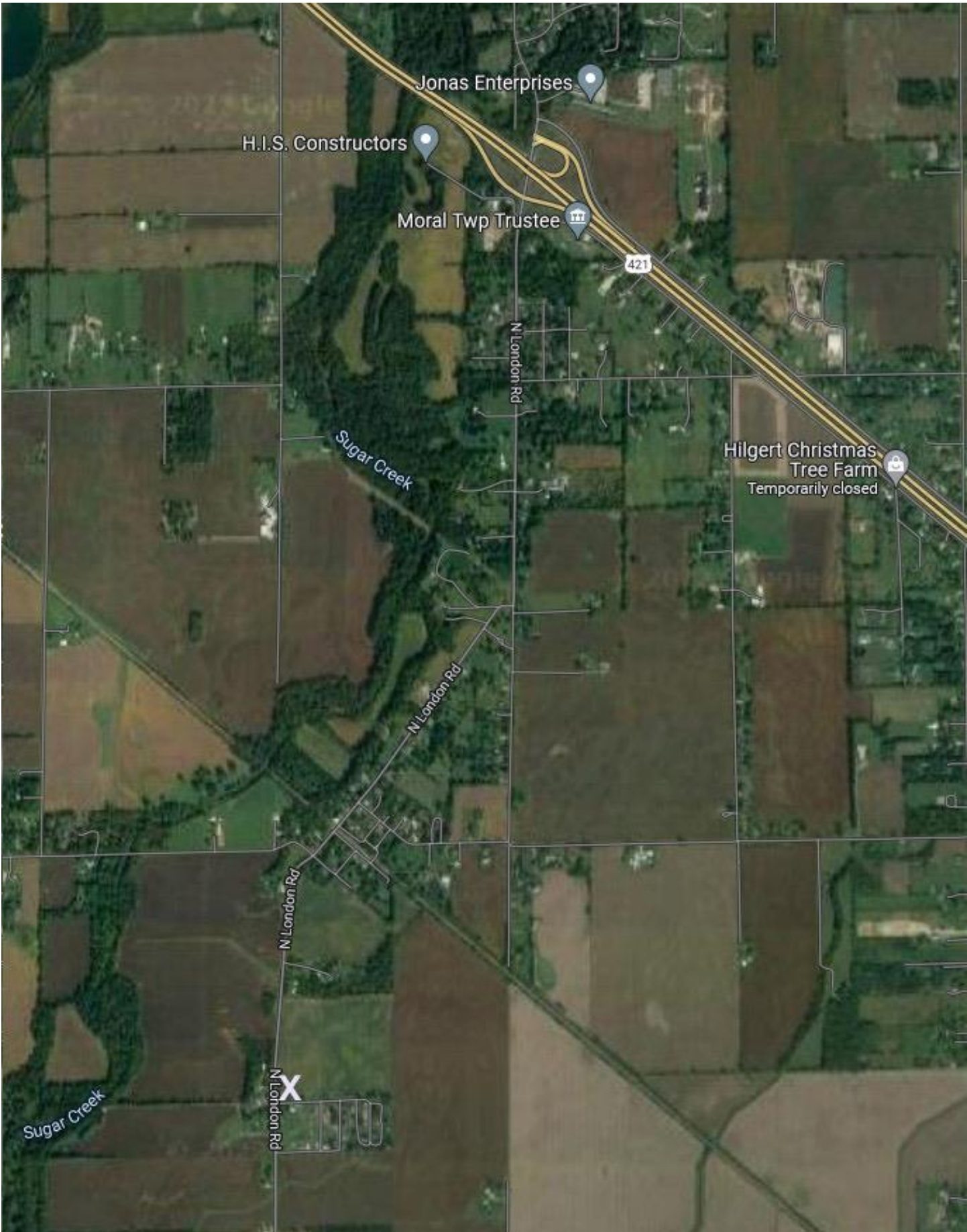


Crater where Allegheny Airlines jet crashed and wreckage strewn through adjoining fields and mobile homes coast are shown in aerial photo by Staff Photographer Jim Bailey.









I've attached a map. Take the London road exit off I-74 and go south. At the little cemetery, don't continue south but rather take the jog right and then then left down the road to London (continuing to follow London Rd). You'll cross the RR tracks in London.

Keep going and the field is on your left. It's a little trailer park, and I've marked the memorial with an X. The field the plane crashed in is the large square field to the northeast of that X.





THIS MONUMENT SERVES
AS A MEMORIAL TO THOSE WHO HAVE
PASSED IN THE SKY ABOVE AND IN THE
FIELD BELOW

AT 3:29 PM ON TUESDAY SEPT. 9, 1969
ALLEGEDLY FLIGHT 853, A DC-9, COLLIDED
MIDAIR WITH A PIPER CHEROKEE.
THE RESULTING CRASH KILLED ALL 83
PASSENGERS, CREW AND PILOTS INVOLVED.
OUT OF THIS TRAGEDY Arose A NEW ERA
OF AVIATION SAFETY AND TECHNOLOGY.
MAY THE LIVES THAT ARE GONE NEVER
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★ WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 1969

WEATHER: Clear and cool. Details on Page 8.

AIR COLLISION KILLS 83, MOST BOARDED PLANE HERE

Light Craft Rips Tail Off Airliner Near Indianapolis

The search resumed today for bodies scattered in the wreckage of a Cincinnati-to-Indianapolis jet airliner which collided with another plane in midair yesterday and plunged into a farm field southeast of Indianapolis. The Allegheny Airlines DC-9 jet was rammied at 3:31 p.m. by a single-engine plane near Shelbyville, Ind. Both planes crashed. No one aboard either survived.

THE JET had left Greater Cincinnati Airport about 20 minutes before the collision. It carried 78 passengers and a crew of four. Two of the passengers were Allegheny employes. Most of the passengers had boarded at Cincinnati.

The small plane, a Piper Cherokee, was piloted by a student on a solo training flight. It rammied the jet-liner's tail section, shearing it off.

The jet plunged to earth two miles south of Interstate 74 and 11 miles northwest of Shelbyville, Ind. It was descending for a landing at Weir Cook Airport at Indianapolis at the time of the collision. The jet was about 25 miles from the airport.

The two planes plunged out of the sky into a soybean field near the small town of London, Ind., showering a nearby trailer park with debris. At least nine trailer homes were damaged but their occupants escaped injury.

The tail section of the jet and the entire smaller plane hit the ground half a mile away.

Jagged pieces of wreckage, personal effects of the passengers and crew members and unidentifiable bodies were scattered near the trailer court and in the soybean field.

WITNESSES said the pilot of the airliner desperately tried to keep the out-of-control craft from plunging directly into Shady Acres Mobile Home Park near I-74.

"I thought it was going to drop right down on me," said James Shields, who lives in the park. "I think the pilot—if he were still alive after the collision—tried to hit the open spot away from the trailer court area."

Officials identified the pilot of the Cherokee as Robert W. Carey, Indianapolis. They said he had just taken off from Brookside Airport at McCordsville, Ind. The Federal Aviation Administration in Washington said the Cherokee was owned by the Forth Corp., a flying school based at the McCordsville field.

It was the third fatal crash of an Allegheny plane in less than nine months. Separate crashes last December and January killed a total of 31 persons.

Flight 853 originated in Boston and had stopped at Baltimore and Cincinnati before flying on toward Indianapolis. The flight was scheduled to end at St. Louis.

The sky was clear at the time of the crash and there was no warning of coming disaster. The airliner pilot had been in communication with Weir-Cook, receiving landing instructions, when the airliner went off the radar screen.

The National Transportation Safety Board in Washington said it was sending a 10-man investigative team to the area immediately. The FBI also sent special agents to aid Indiana state police. Gov. Edgar B. Whitcomb was among the officials who rushed to the scene.

A morgue was set up in an armory at Shelbyville.

IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE to find a whole body. The wreckage was spread over several acres. In it, investigators found such mute testaments of tragedy as a Chinese newspaper with a photograph of the Apollo 11 astronauts, a Chinese book on philosophy, an eyeglass case, a man's shaving kit.

Two of the victims—the airliners' stewardesses—were identified as Patricia Perry of Lynn, Mass., and Barbara Petrucek of Boston.



—Photo by Gordon Bear

Mrs. Benny Hawk and her son, Max, 6, who live in the trailer park near scene of the airliner crash, huddle near wreckage.

Delayed Flight Fateful

Allegheny Airlines Flight 853 had several passengers aboard who had been scheduled to take a Trans World Airlines flight from Cincinnati to St. Louis.

TWA Flight 69 was due in Cincinnati from New York at 3:15 p.m. but was delayed in New York and did not arrive at Greater Cincinnati Airport until 4 p.m.

Because of the delay, many passengers scheduled for the TWA plane took the Allegheny Airlines flight instead. It was to leave Cincinnati at 2:57 p.m. but its departure was delayed until 3:12 p.m. to accommodate the additional passengers.

The Allegheny flight was due in Indianapolis at 3:36 p.m. It crashed at 3:31 p.m.



—Photo by Gordon Bear

Most of the wreckage of the DC-9 jet looked like this: Twisted, charred and almost unrecognizable. This was an engine.



Ann Copeland says:

July 4, 2022 at 12:23 pm

My grandfather, Don Flynn, lived in Auburn and worked for Sangamo at the Springfield plant until his death in 1969 in a plane crash returning from a business trip. The flight had multiple stops and included passengers from another flight which had been cancelled, so it's unclear as to where he was coming home from. If any colleagues know of him or where he had traveled to and the reason for the trip, it would help fill in some gaps in his story.

[Reply](#)



Elizabeth says:

July 4, 2022 at 2:46 pm

What was printed in the front page of the September 10, 1969 edition of The State Journal Register: According to Sangamo's Public Relations Officer John Patton, your grandfather, Robert E. Dryer (assistant purchasing agent) and Jack A. Siebert (manager, transducer, engineering department), were in Cincinnati for a business trip. The article states that the airplane carrying the three either crashed into, or was struck by, the tail of a DC-9 owned by Allegheny Airlines.

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