

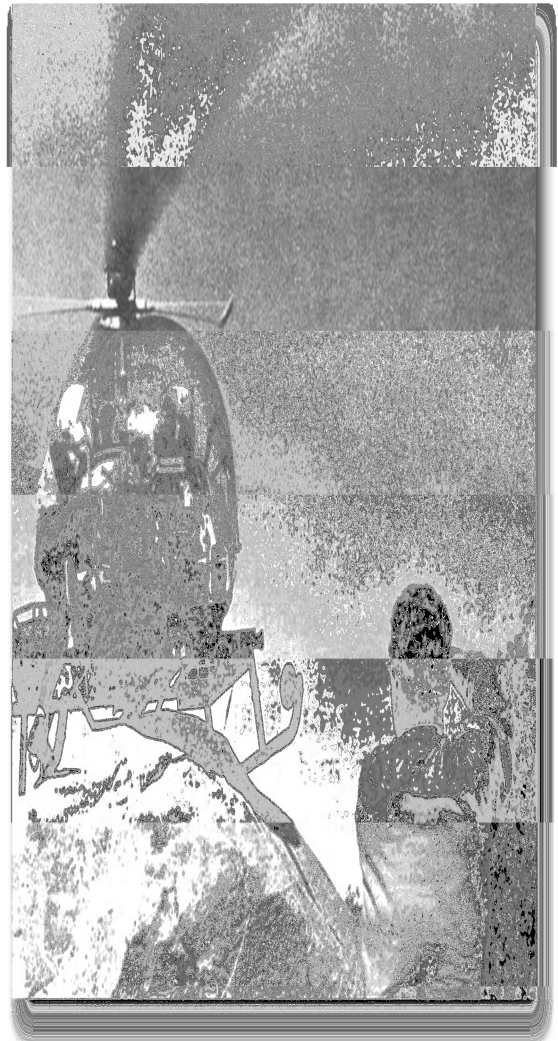
Plane Crash

February 15th, 1970
Banning Pass
1970-001

by Tom

On Saturday the Civil Air Patrol spotted the wreckage of a small plane which had been the object of a week long search for a missing pilot overdue on a trip from Arizona to the Torrance Airport. The wreckage was located approximately 3 miles SSE of the Twin Pines Boys Ranch on the south side of the Banning Pass at an elevation of 4500 feet. Late Saturday afternoon, a deputy sheriff and coroner from Riverside County, were lowered by helicopter to the crash site. At dawn on Sunday, members of RMRU assembled at Twin Pines to assist in recovery of the dead pilot and his personal effects.

Two RMRU members were flown to a large boulder near the crash site and Helitac jumped from the supercharged Bell helicopter charted from Western Helicopters, Inc. of Rialto. They then unloaded packs and two chain saws as the bird hovered. With chain saws buzzing they cut a path toward the crash site and immediately started cutting a helispot. Six more RMRU members and two officials from the FAA and NTSB were flown to the boulder. While investigators inspected the wreckage RMRU members carried the body of the dead pilot to the helispot. The bird was rigged, at basecamp, for an aerial pick-up of the body. As the helicopter hovered high overhead the body bag was secured and our job was done.



The recovery went smoothly, largely due to the Helitac training received in December with the cooperation of Alec Ferguson of Western Helicopters, who supplied the aircraft and pilots

necessary for the meaningful exercise. - Once again a distasteful job was completed safely due to RMRU training and experience.

RMRU is a volunteer search and rescue team that covers Riverside County and assists other teams with search and rescue efforts in other counties. Each member purchases their own equipment and takes time off work, without compensation, to participate in search and rescue missions. Team equipment is purchased from contributions from the community. We are a non-profit organization and are funded by [donations](#) from people like you.