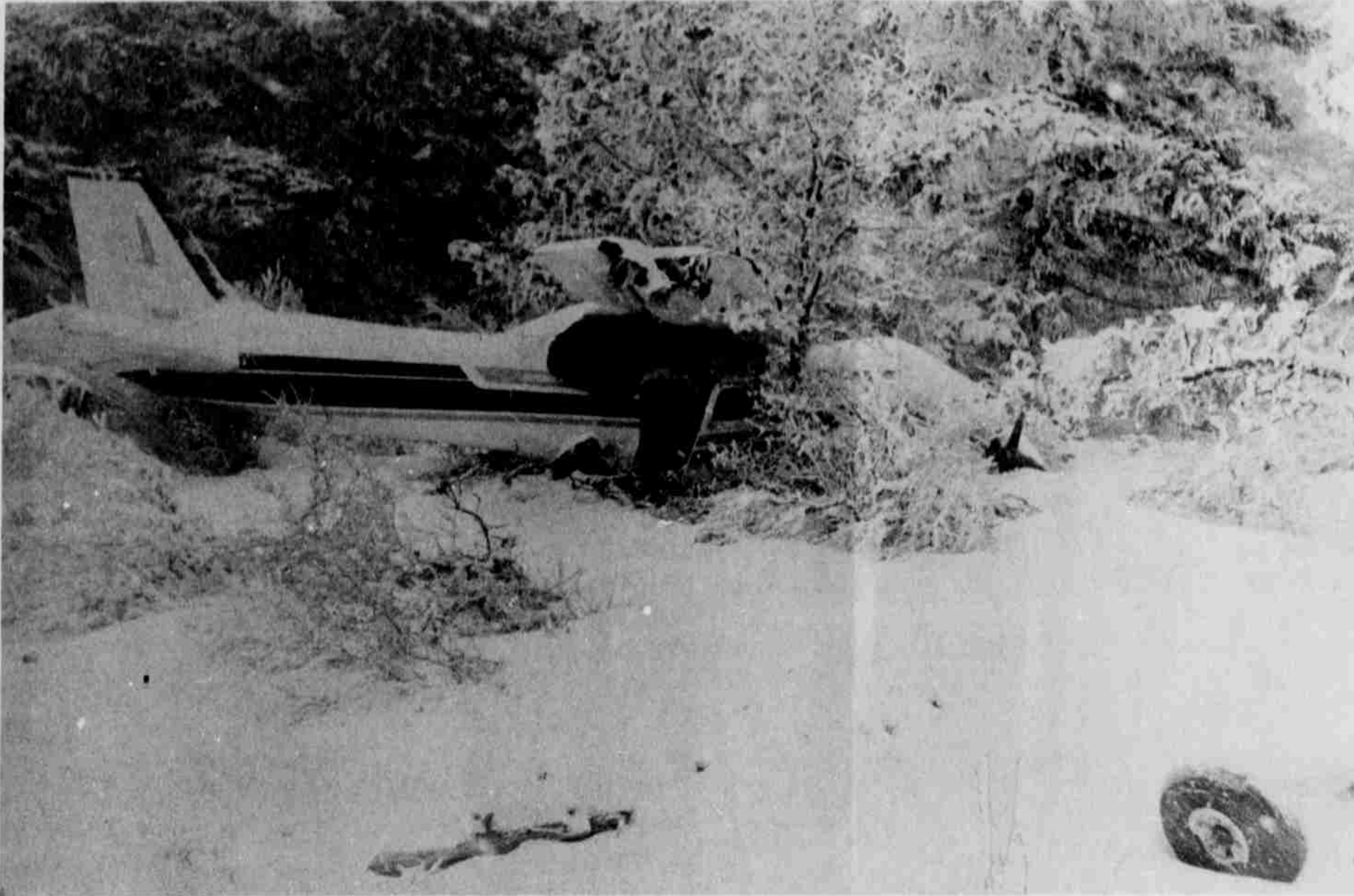


# Three survive plane crash near Simnasho



A single engine Cessna airplane crashed on the Warm Springs Reservation in route to The Dalles after pilot loses his sense of direction during inclement weather.

On their way from their home in southern California to The Dalles for a family gathering to celebrate their father's 90th birthday, the Blankenship family probably never expected to find themselves stranded in a remote area of the northern part of the Warm Springs Indian Reservation. But, that's exactly what happened to the trio Thursday, February 6. Richard and Jan Blankenship and their son John encountered low and heavy cloud cover and dense fog February 6 as they were making their way north. Richard Blankenship, the pilot, descended, trying to find a landmark, but he already was at an altitude lower than he realized. The plane's wing clipped a tree and crashed.

John Blankenship stayed with his parents throughout the night and made his way out of the area the next morning on foot, following a logging road. He met searchers and led them back to his parents. The elder Blankenships sustained minor injuries and were taken to Legacy Emmanuel Hospital in Portland by the Air Force's Portland-based 304th Rescue Squadron. John Blankenship was treated at Mt. View Hospital in Madras and released.



An airplane wing rests halfway up the top of the tree.



Snowmobiles pulling sleds were used during the rescue February 7.



Some rescue vehicles were unable to make it to the crash site.



Airplane crash victims are brought out and transferred into the 304th National Guard rescue helicopter.