

## ***Dead Music Mobster Bill Graham Made His Career Via Threats And Harms To Competitors***

Graham had attended a "Huey Lewis and The News" concert at the Concord Pavilion, to discuss promoting a benefit concert for the victims of the Oakland firestorm. Landing in the "F" parking lot shortly after 8 PM, a van picked Graham, and his entourage, up to drive him to the backstage. Once backstage, he went to work.



He obtained a commitment from the band to perform at the benefit for the Oakland firestorm victims, and, after shooting the breeze with several Pavilion staffers and his pilot, Steve Kahn, he set on returning to his helicopter, a Bell 206B "Jet Ranger", owned by Corporate Mobility Inc., and registered as N3456M, along with Graham's mistress girlfriend, Melissa Gold.

But Graham was stopped by the bass player from the News, Mario Cippolina, who, in a moment of foresight, noted the poor weather, and suggested that Graham to take his limousine. Concord Pavilion general manager John Toffoli also recommended that Graham take a rental car home to Marin, and noticed a peculiar detail to Graham's attire that night...

"One of the ironic things I remember was he was putting on his jacket, and he turned around to say goodbye, and he was wearing a 'Lynyrd Skynyrd' jacket." In 1977, the band 'Lynyrd Skynyrd' endured a [plane crash](#) that killed several of its members and staff.

Nevertheless, Graham's helicopter left the Concord Pavilion at around 9:45 PM, bound for his home in Corte Madera. The weather was rainy and cold, with low clouds. Upon departure, the pilot received a Special VFR clearance through the airspace of Concord's Buchanan Field, and departed to the northwest.

Since the pilot was familiar with the geographic area, he flew the helicopter using a technique known as "pilotage" - flying from one fixed point to another. Near State Highway 37, west of Vallejo, witnesses observed the helicopter paralleling a highway at about 200 feet above the ground, dodging the clouds.

Flying at a low altitude, in weather reported as low overcast, rain and gusty winds, the aircraft flew directly into a 223-foot high-voltage transmission tower along State Highway 37, which runs between Vallejo and Marin County, and just 20 miles from the concert site, at 9:56 PM, killing all three aboard.

"Weather certainly played a part," said Lt. Mike Ferguson, a Sonoma County Sheriffs deputy. "There was a lot of fog and apparently the pilot was looking for an opening in the fog... dipping up and down in hopes of finding an opening," he said.



Workers used a large crane to clear away the wreckage. The main part of the helicopter had welded itself to the 115,000-volt tower, fusing it far above the ground, Ferguson said.

The copter remained suspended in power lines the following day, to allow investigators to find the cause of the crash. Officials with Pacific Gas and Electric said 23,000 homes in the Vallejo area were without power for most of the night of the crash, and a stretch of State Highway 37 near the transmission tower remained closed for a few days afterwards.

### ***Afterwards...***

The National Transportation Safety Board concluded the probable cause of the accident was, "The pilot's intentional flight into known adverse weather, continued flight into instrument meteorological conditions, and improper altitude. Contributing to the accident was low ceilings, poor visibility, and restricted visual lookout."

Fuck you Bill Graham You Dirty Mobster. You are ***TOAST ON A TOWER*** now!