

## Search continues

ESCANABA (UPI) — Civil Air Patrol and Delta County Sheriff's Department officials today resumed their search for a small plane with three Michigan men that disappeared Friday.

Coast Guard officials said the search for the Cessna 182 was concentrated in northern Lake Michigan near Washington Island, Wis.

About 20 volunteers also were involved in the search.

Missing were Terry Atkins, 31, the owner and pilot of the plane; Rick Boyer, 28, and Ben O'Connell, 35, all of Escanaba.

A Coast Guard spokesman said Atkins was an experienced flyer who had made the trip from Washington Island to Escanaba, a journey of about 25 miles, numerous times.

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(Marquette, Michigan) page 2a

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## Search canceled

ESCANABA (UPI) — Snow forced the Coast Guard to abandon an air search Monday for a small airplane that disappeared in northern Lake Michigan with three men aboard, a Coast Guard spokesman said.

Mike James, of the Coast Guard in Cleveland, said a Civil Air Patrol plane and a Coast Guard helicopter searching for the missing aircraft were forced to abandon the patrol about 2 p.m. Monday. Ground efforts to locate the airplane were continuing, he said.

The search for the plane centered on the Peninsula Point area about five miles from Escanaba near Big Bay De Noc. About 20 volunteers and members of the Delta Sheriff's Department were aiding the Coast Guard in the ground search, James said.

The plane was last seen late Friday when it took off from an airport in Washington Island, Wis., en route to Escanaba.

Source: December 8, 1981 *Mining Journal*  
(Marquette, Michigan) page 2a

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## Search resumes

ESCANABA (UPI) — The search for a missing plane with three men aboard resumed for the fifth day today, but officials held out little hope of finding the men alive.

Snow forced the Coast Guard to abandon the search Monday but the Civil Air Patrol flew over the area Tuesday while more than 70 volunteers conducted a ground search without success.

A 43-foot sonar-equipped cabin cruiser donated by a private citizen also was being used in northern Lake Michigan about five miles off Escanaba. Authorities asked for even more volunteer help today.

The Cessna 182 was last seen late Friday when it took off from an airport in Washington Island, Wis., for Escanaba. Aboard were Terry Atkins, 31, owner and pilot, Rick Boyer, 28, and Ben O'Connell, 35, all of Escanaba.

Atkins, a CAP member, was said to be an experienced pilot who had made the 25-mile flight from Washington Island to Escanaba many times.

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(Marquette, Michigan) page 2a

# 100 Expected In Search for Missing Men

ESCANABA, Mich. (AP) — About 100 people were expected to converge on the Stonington Peninsula today, searching for three Escanaba men missing since Friday when their airplane apparently crashed.

The land search was planned in the hope the men were able to crash-land their Cessna 182 into the densely wooded and marshy area. Lt. Ron Quick of the Delta County Civil Air Patrol said Monday.

Residents of the peninsula, which is about four miles east of Escanaba, reported hearing a plane in the area about 8:17 p.m., when the Federal Aviation Administration office in Cleveland, Ohio said it lost radar contact with the aircraft, Quick said.

"The peninsula is a marshland area, and there's a lot of snow and a lot of evergreens," said U.S. Coast Guard Petty Officer Mike James in Cleveland. "The plane was green and white, so it's going to be difficult to see."

On board the craft were the pilot, Terry Atkins, 31, and passengers Rick Boyer, 28, and Ben O'Connell, 35.

They had taken off from Washington Island, Wis., at the tip of Wisconsin's Door County peninsula, at 7:25 p.m. en route to Escanaba, James said. The flight, covering 26 miles, normally takes about a half hour, he said.

A pilot flying over the waters of Green Bay, about 60 miles south of the area where the plane is thought to have gone down, picked up a weak emergency transmitter signal Monday, James said.

In addition, Steve Maki, an Escanaba man, told authorities Sunday he saw an aircraft strobe light go into the water at 8:13 p.m. Friday, James said. Maki's report conforms to the location the FAA pinpointed, James said.

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