

Cincinnati Enquirer - December 19, 1972

Wife Earlier Boat Victim

Cincinnatian Dies In Shipwreck

A Cincinnati man whose wife was killed a year ago in a Florida boating accident has himself died in a shipwreck in the Caribbean. The Enquirer learned Monday.

Authorities in the Dominican Republic said James Hensley, 25, formerly of Sharonville, perished when his 28-foot ketch "Senta" foundered on a reef and broke apart during a storm December 10.

The wreck occurred a mile off the northern coast of the Dominican Republic. A companion managed to swim ashore and survived. A second companion is missing and presumed dead, authorities said.

Hensley was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Hensley, 11365 Lippelman Rd., Sharonville.

He graduated from Princeton High School in 1967, then was in the Navy aboard the USS Newport News in Vietnamese waters. He was married in 1968, was discharged from the Navy in 1969, and moved to Florida in 1971.

The elder Hensley said his son's wife, Deborah, was "killed in a boating accident on Tampa Bay last January" and that his son told him later "he had to go out and think and get myself together."

Since then, the elder Hensley

said, his son had been living aboard his ketch. "He gave up his job and was just sailing around" Florida and the Caribbean. "We got a card in November," the father said. "He was going to come home for Christmas."

The Dominican navy reported that at 11 p.m. December 10 a man identified as Michael Ball, 19, Chestnut Hill, Pa., "swam ashore" and said a yacht with two others aboard had foundered "on a reef a mile offshore in high winds and heavy seas."

He told authorities that "the other two were hanging onto the rocks" when he started ashore. A Coast Guard spokesman later said the three men had no life jackets.

The U.S. Coast Guard sent a plane to help the Dominican navy search and, on December 12, found the wreckage and discovered a body at the base of coastal cliffs nearby. Ball identified the body Saturday as Hensley's.

The third member of the small boat's crew was identified as Michael Morrissey, 19, Barnstable, Mass. He is still missing. Coast Guard sources said he was probably attacked by sharks.



James Hensley
... shipwreck victim

Besides his parents, Hensley leaves two brothers, Ronald Ray Hensley, Redwood City, Calif., and Gregory L. Hensley, Cincinnati, and his grandmother, Loretta Henderson, Cincinnati.

Funeral arrangements are incomplete.

Cincinnati Post - December 22, 1972

HENSLEY

James L., beloved husband of the late Debra Hensley (nee McGinnis), devoted son of Leonard Hensley Jr. and Shirley Henderson, grandson of Loretta Henderson, brother of Ronald Gray and Gregory L. Hensley, passed away suddenly Sunday, December 10, 1972, in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. Funeral services at the Schmidt-Dhonau Funeral Home, 10980 Reading-rd, Sharonville, Saturday, December 23 at 10 a.m. Relatives and friends may call Friday from 7 to 9 p.m.