

DESERET NEWS

Salt Lake Telegram

THE WEATHER
Salt Lake City—Partly cloudy.
Utah—Partly cloudy.
(See details on Page A-2)

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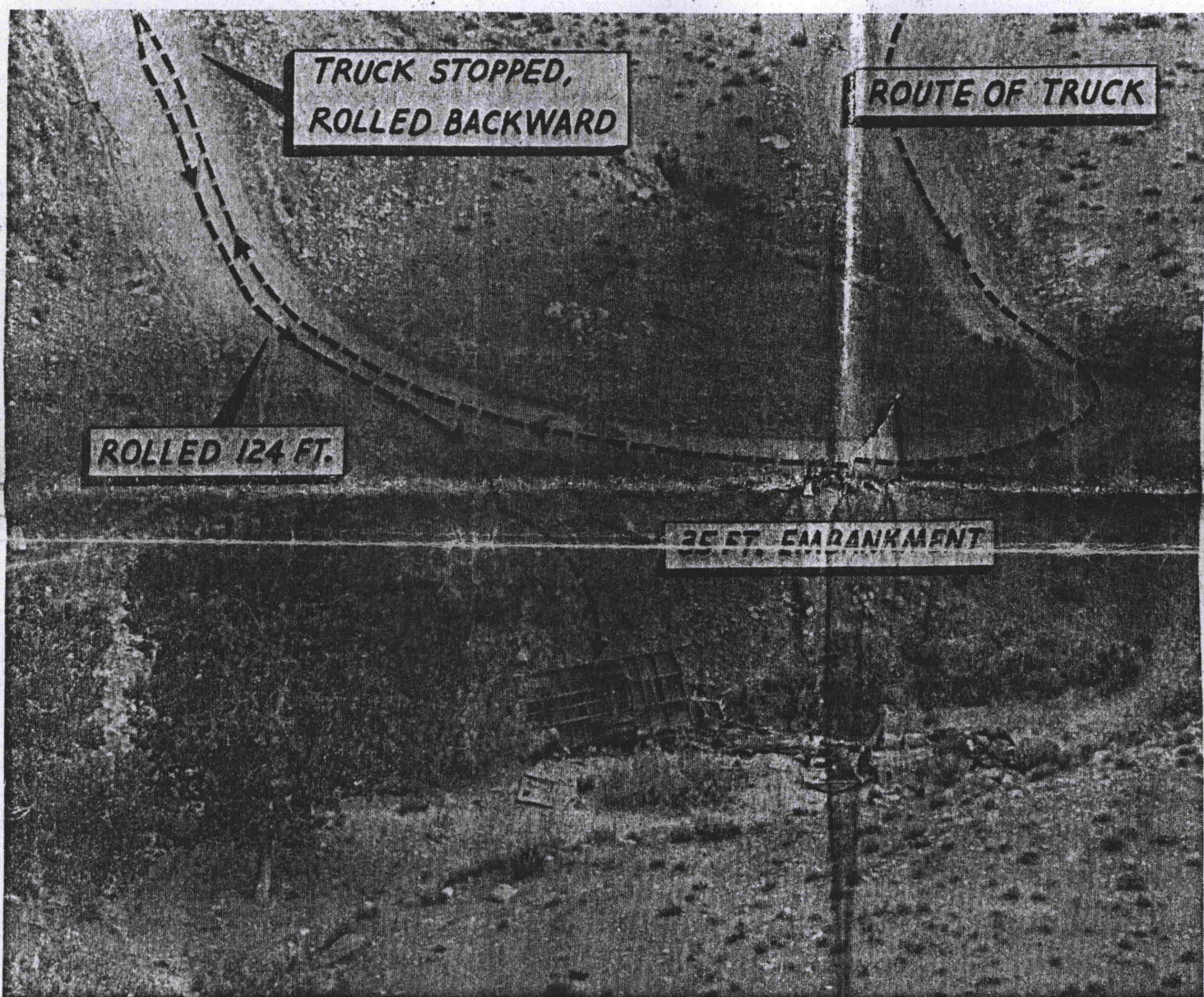
VOL. 359 NO. 139 SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

THE MOUNTAIN WEST'S FIRST NEWSPAPER, AND 1962 PULITZER PRIZE WINNER, NOW IN ITS 113TH YEAR

★ ★

TUESDAY, JUNE 11, 1963 10c

12 Die, 26 Hurt As Truck Rolls On Remote Southern Utah Road



Aerial photo by Don Grayston and Reed Madsen, Deseret News staff

Exclusive Deseret News aerial photo shows path of packed truck as it turned curve in Carcass Wash, then attempted steep grade up red sandstone hill. It stopped and rolled backward, then tipped over embankment, plunging human cargo into deep draw.

8 Youths, 4 Adults Claimed In Tragedy

By MRS. LOUISE ENGLESTEAD and REED MADSEN
ESCALANTE—Twelve Utahns were killed Monday afternoon when a large 2½-ton stake truck carrying a party of 46 river runners overturned 47 miles southeast of here.

The accident, third worst in Utah's highway history, occurred when the heavily loaded truck started up a grade, stalled, then began rolling backwards.

The driver, Ernest Stephan Ahlborn, about 23, 845 E. 2950 North, Provo, told highway patrol officers he was unable to stop the truck from rolling backwards, that it rolled off the dirt road, over a 35-foot embankment, landed on its top, spilling the passengers and gear, then slid and rolled over on its side.

4 Adults, 8 Scouts
Four adults and eight Explorer Scouts were killed. Included among the dead were a professor and an assistant professor at Brigham Young University and a Deseret News reporter.

Others pinned under the truck and were removed only after the truck was jacked up.

The truck rolled backward about 124 feet before plunging off the roadway into the gulch.

The party was en route to Hole-in-the-Rock where they were to meet a group of about 50 boaters who took to the Colorado River Friday at Hite, up river from Hole-in-the-Rock.

To Continue Trip
Most of those at Hite were scheduled to leave the river and the party of 46 in the truck were to enter the boats and float down the Colorado River to the Crossing of the Fathers.

The truck, operated by the Socoowa School Expedition Co., 1942 Downingtown Ave. (1825 South), of Salt Lake City, was to take the Hite boaters to Escalante, and then circle back to the river and meet the Hole-in-the-Rock boaters at the Crossing of the Fathers.

The party included an Explorer Scout troop from the Pleasant View Ward of the East Sharon Stake of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Victims Identified
The dead were:
Gary Christensen, 2159 N. 250 East, Provo, son of Mr. and Mrs. Louis G. Christensen.
Robert Cook, 29, 224 G. St., See CRASH on Page A-6

Doctor Helps Victims—Despite Injury

By DON BECK
Deseret News Staff Writer

"John, it's been a long time," I said as I extended my hand to Dr. John H. Cook Jr. who had been a schoolmate of mine

at High School.

"Not too hard with the handshake. It hurts a little," Dr. Cook replied. He suffered injuries in the accident.

As one wandered through the corridors and rooms of the small one-story frame Panguitch hospital, it soon became evident that the hearts of all law enforcement officers, survivors, and members of the victims' families were open to the heroic efforts of the doctor during the tragic accident.

More than 13 hours after the accident occurred, weary and showing extreme pain, the doctor continued to make his rounds from one patient to another.

Members of the Panguitch Hospital staff repeatedly urged the doctor to slow down. But oftentimes reacting as in a trance, Doctor Cook not once turned his attention away from his patients.

Shortly after 3 p.m. Monday afternoon the doctor found himself surrounded with injured persons... his own younger brother lay dead at his feet.

For hours at the scene of the accident he worked single-handedly caring for one patient after another until additional medical help arrived on the scene.

Kennedy Outlines Policy On Russia

WASHINGTON (UPI)—The United States will seek to increase communications with Russia, to avoid unnecessary irritants, to search for areas of agreement and to avoid pushing the Kremlin into a choice between "humiliating retreat or a nuclear war."

This fundamental philosophy of how to deal with the Russians in a nuclear age, stated by President Kennedy Monday in a major speech, is expected by diplomats to be more prominently recorded in history than his announcements of nuclear testing.

The last few hundred words of Mr. Kennedy's speech were devoted to announcing that agreement had been reached for high level U.S.-British-Soviet nuclear test ban talks in Moscow next month and that the United States would not conduct atmospheric tests unless others do first.

But most of the address, delivered at American University, was a detailed explanation to the Kremlin, to the world and to the American public of the policies the Kennedy administration is attempting to follow toward Russia.

The speech came at a time when U.S. officials believe the Kremlin is facing a period of re-examining its policies. The Communist world has scheduled a series of meetings, culminating July 5 with talks between Russia and Red China on whether to use hard or soft tactics toward the West.

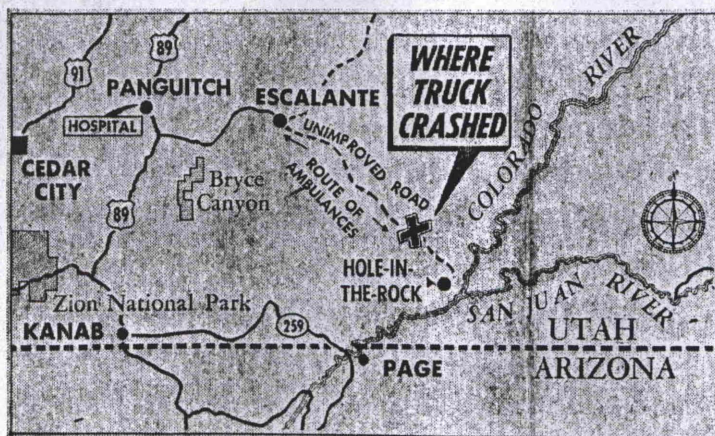
Khrushchev thus will enter this debate with a clear understanding of U.S. policy.

The speech also came at a time when the American public

Today's Thought

Whoever is out of patience is out of possession of his soul. Men must not turn bees, and kill themselves in stinging others.

—Francis Bacon



Map shows location of truck crash.

U. Of U. Confers Degrees On 1,760 Graduates

The University of Utah conferred 1,760 degrees Monday evening at commencement exercises held in Einar Nielsen Fieldhouse because of threatening weather.

The graduating class was second largest in the school's history (exceeded only in 1949), according to Dr. A. Ray Olpin, university president.

Hundreds of spectators, unable to obtain seats in the packed fieldhouse, watched the proceedings on closed circuit television from rooms in Orson Spencer Hall.

Three men who have made outstanding contributions to society were awarded honorary degrees. They were Dr. Walter P. Cotton, professor emeritus of botany at the U. of U.; George S. Eccles, president, general manager and director, First Security Corp. and U. of U. treasurer, and Roger J. Traynor, former Utahn (born at Park City) who is associate

See U. OF U. on Page A-8

Wallace Defiant In Alabama Crisis

TUSCALOOSA, ALA. (UPI)—Defiant Gov. George C. Wallace, ignoring a last-minute order from President Kennedy to "cease and desist" refused Tuesday to admit two Negroes to the all-white University of Alabama.

Wallace, after a last-minute conference with a Justice Department attorney who delivered a message from the President, strode into the bright sunshine and announced he would not admit the two Negroes.

Wallace stood outside Foster auditorium near a white line that had been drawn on the pavement and read in a firm voice his proclamation.

Then, in an apparent last-minute change of strategy, one of the Negro students, Vivian Malone, was escorted to her dormitory.

Moments later, the second Negro student, James A. Hood, was taken to his dormitory, assigned earlier by the university.

Top Of The NEWS

Tragedy Strikes, Team Responds

When tragedy visited a lonely southern Utah road Monday afternoon, a team of Deseret Newsmen sped into action to funnel details of the 12-death truck crash to the Salt Lake City office.

Reporter Don Beck, southern Utah staffer Reed Madsen, Price Bureau man Bob Mullins and Panguitch correspondent Louise Englestead raced to the crash scene and the nearby hospitals. Photographer Don Grayston flew to the area, also.

At Provo, Bureau Manager Leo Perry and staffers Dorothy Rea and Al Pratte gathered the necessary details from that grieving city.

Rewrite man Joseph Lundstrom quarterbacked the newsgathering operation all night long from the Deseret News city desk, with police reporters Don Andersen and Jack Monson manning the telephones.

The result of their teamwork is found in this edition of the Deseret News.

Also here's complete index:

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June 11, 1963

Fatally Injured Victims In Tragic Southern Utah Crash



Dorothy June Hansen
... Deseret News writer



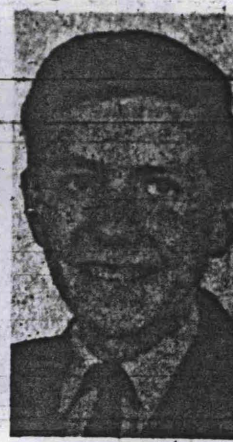
Harvey Darrel Taylor
... BYU professor



Merlin J. Shaw
... Manavu Ward bishop



Joseph William Erickson
... Explorer Scout



Gordon Henry Grow
... high school student



William Allen-Creer
... assistant scoutmaster



Randall Melvin Hall
... Deacon president



Randy Wayne Miller
... ninth grader

S. Utah Mishap Was Second For Sponsors

Monday's tragic accident which killed 12 persons in Kane County was the second fatality marked trip sponsored by Socotwa School Expeditions in two years.

Four youths and one adult were drowned Sept. 17, 1961 when a flash flood trapped their party in Zion Canyon. Bodies of two of the victims were never found.

Donn R. Amott, treasurer of the non-profit organization, said he hopes the accidents "won't mean the end of Socotwa."

Mr. Amott said the organization was formed several years ago as a trip-planning unit of South Cottonwood Ward, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Since then it has become an independent corporation with no ties to any ward or the Church.

Some Suffered Injuries Here're Passengers On Ill-Fated Truck

Following is a list of those who were on the truck as passengers, some of whom were injured:

- Reed Allen Jr., 14, 586 E. 2320 North, Provo.
- Chas. R. Alford, 16, 2209 N. 650 East, Provo.
- Clyde Ashton, 14, 475 E. 1700 North, Provo.
- Belva Barlow, 1025 E. 4th South, Salt Lake City.
- Robert Benson, 650 E. 2200 North, Provo.
- William Burdard, 16, 321 E. 1950 North, Provo.
- Ronnie Clark, 16, 340 E. 2050 North, Provo.
- Lee Colwin, 15, 585 E. Spruce Ave., Provo.
- Dr. John Cook, 851-14th East, Salt Lake City.
- Allen Creer, 300 E. 1900 North, Provo.
- David Daley, 15, 445 E. 2200 North, Provo.
- Jed Daley, 445 E. 2200 North, Provo.
- Dennis Davis, 1806 N. 500 East, Provo.
- Allen Hall, 725-25th St., Ogden.
- David Hall, 15, 1711 Lambert Ln., Provo.
- Tracy Hall Jr., 16, 1711 Lambert Ln., Provo.
- Tom Heal, 15, 285 E. 2100 North, Provo.
- Charles Pope, 2135 N. 487 East, Provo.
- Marvin Porschalla, 923 Laird Ave., Salt Lake City.
- Bryan Roundy, 14, 340 E. 1900 North, Provo.
- Kilmer Roundy, 340 E. 1900 North, Provo.
- David Shaw, 17, 342 E. 7th North, Provo.
- Roger Sheffield, 14, 410 E. 1980 North, Provo.
- Norman Skiba, 1847 N. 500 East, Provo.
- James Taylor, 17, 585 E. Sagewood Ave., Provo.

12-Death Crash Third Worst In Utah History

Monday's 12-death traffic accident in southern Utah was the third worst in Utah history; and the worst to happen on clear roads.

Dec. 1, 1938, 24 people died when a Jordan District High School bus was struck by a DRGW freight train at a crossing near 11000 South and 4th West.

Witnesses said the bus stopped at the crossing, then pulled onto the tracks and was struck by the train. The accident was blamed on fog and snow. The driver and 23 students were killed. At the time, it was the worst traffic accident in the history of the nation.

Utah's second worst traffic accident occurred Dec. 18, 1948, when two Burlington Trailways buses loaded with passengers going home for



Gary Lynn Rasmussen
... due for Eagle award



Robert Cook
... Salt Lake teacher



Lynn Merrell
... honor graduate



Gary Christensen
... Provo Scout

Christmas collided near Delle, about 30 miles west of Grantsville. That accident claimed 14 lives. It also took place in the fog and on a icy road.

Nine people met death Aug. 2, 1952, when the car in which they were riding collided with a truck at 9th East and 7300 South in Salt Lake County.

NATIONAL ARMY & NAVY STORE

Father's Day GIFT GUIDE YOUR "WORKING"

7-6



Clyde Ashton, 15, Provo, grimaces in pain as nurse at Panguitch Hospital prepares to move him by aircraft to Salt Lake City.

Injured Medic Refuses Aid, Treats Others

By DON BECK
Deseret News Staff Writer

"John, it's been a long time. I said as I extended my hand to Dr. John H. Cook Jr. who had been a schoolmate of mine at Bryant Junior and East High School.

"Not too hard with the hand shake. It hurts a little," Dr. Cook replied. He suffered injuries in the accident.

As one wandered through the corridors and rooms of the small one-story frame Panguitch hospital, it soon became evident that the hearts of all

law enforcement officers, survivors, and members of the victims' families were open to the heroic efforts of the doctor during the tragic accident.

More than 13 hours after the accident occurred, weary and showing extreme pain, the doctor continued to make his rounds from one patient to another.

Members of the Panguitch Hospital staff repeatedly urged the doctor to slow down. But oftentimes reacting as in a trance, Doctor Cook not once turned his attention away from his patients.

Shortly after 3 p.m. Monday afternoon the doctor found himself surrounded with injured persons... his own younger brother lay dead at his feet.

For hours at the scene of the accident he worked single-handedly caring for one patient after another until additional medical help arrived on the scene from Panguitch and Page, Ariz.

During the night the doctor assisted members of the Panguitch Hospital staff in preparing the more seriously injured for their plane trip to larger hospitals in Provo and Salt Lake City.

"Doctor, I would like to get pictures of some of the survivors," I asked my old friend.

"Don't do this. This accident was terrible and I know it's going to get a lot of bad publicity but I guess I can't prevent that. Let me at least see to it that the patients you take pictures of are cleaned up as much as possible. If the parents are not



Neerly exhausted, Dr. John Cook, Salt Lake City, talks with Garfield County Sheriff George Middleton at hospital. The doctor's brother was killed.

Tragedy in South Utah Wilds

Crash Kills 12, Hurts 26

Continued from First Page

of Mr. and Mrs. D. Spencer Groat, 1800 E. 900 N., Provo.

Randall Melvin Hall, 13, son of Mr. and Mrs. Eugene H. Hall, 725-33rd St., Ogden.

News Reporter

Miss Dorothy Hansen, 24, 784 2nd East, Salt Lake City, a staff writer for the Deseret News.

Lynn Merrill, 625 E. 2130 North, Provo, son of Mr. and Mrs. Laver Merrill.

Randy Wayne Miller, 14, son of Mr. and Mrs. Debra Miller, 419 E. 2900 No., Provo.

Gary Rasmussen, 2253 N.

truck see the accompanying list.)

The accident occurred in Kane County, about 47 miles southeast of Escalante, Garfield County. Residents of the area reported the nearest location was the "Mormon Dance Hall," a historic rock formation about five miles west of the accident.

Carcass Wash Site

Exact location of the accident was placed at Carcass Wash.

The area is typical southern Utah desert and the road is rocky, rough and passable only in dry weather.

It rolled a terrifying 124 feet before dropping off the road.

A passenger in the back of the truck, Tom Neal, 13, of Provo, said, "I heard someone yell that the truck was going to tip over and I tried to jump free."

"I don't know what happened, but by foot got caught in the truck and when I came to, I found myself pinned by some metal on the truck."

Walked For Help

"I finally wiggled my way free from the truck, and then apparently lost consciousness. A short time later I came to and with another fellow (Brian

lance, where the injured persons were transferred to ambulances and taken to Panguitch and Richfield hospitals.

"It was the worst thing I've ever seen. I wouldn't want to see it ever again," Mr. Allen said.

Many of the injured were given first aid at the scene of the accident by Dr. John Cook, a physician traveling with the party.

Real Hero

"He was a real hero, caring for the injured, ignoring his own injuries and his own brother already dead," said Sheriff Middleton.

After treatment at the hospital, the less seriously injured were taken into private homes in Panguitch where they awaited their families to return them home.

Some of the more seriously injured were flown to Provo and Salt Lake City by private and chartered airplanes.

Hiked 15 Miles

In addition to the Roundy and Heal youths hiking for aid, two persons, one of the Rabiger sisters and an unidentified boy, hiked about 15 miles to the Hole-In-The-Rock to report the mishap to the Hite boaters.

Sheriff Lanard Johnson of Kane County was in Kanab at the time of the accident. He drove about 175 miles to get to the scene and joined Sheriff Middleton who had taken charge, although the accident was not in his county.

Assisting the two sheriffs was Utah Highway Patrol Trooper Paul Blackburn.

Jacked Up Truck

Sheriff Middleton said when he arrived on the scene he had to use jacks to raise the truck from two injured persons pinned underneath.

Of the 46 persons in the truck, eight escaped without injury, including the driver.

The people of Panguitch turned out in force when they heard about the accident.

We could see several being killed outright... were moaning, but none complaining. It looked though nothing but arm legs were protruding from beneath the truck.

410 E. 2400th St., Provo.

Gary Rasmussen, 2255 N. 650 East, Provo, son of Mr. and Mrs. LaRay Rasmussen.

Dr. Merlin Shaw, bishop of the Manava Ward, Provo Stake and assistant professor at BYU, 362 E. 7th North, Provo.

Dr. Harvey Dattel Taylor, 45, BYU professor of modern languages and son of a vice president of BYU, 585 E. Sage-wood Ave., Provo.

26 Injured

In addition to the 12 dead, 26 persons were injured, at least two critically.

Many of the injured suffered broken arms and legs and internal injuries. All received cuts, bruises and abrasions as the truck plunged backwards down the road, and then off the road and into the gulch.

(For the names of those injured or passengers on the

rocky, tough and passable only in dry weather.

The accident could hardly have occurred in a more isolated spot in the state, said highway patrol officials. The dirt road to the Hole-In-The-Rock is not even numbered, and is shown only on enlarged maps of the area.

(For complete obituaries on those killed see page B-1.)

According to Sheriff George Middleton of Garfield County, first on the scene of the accident, the truck was traveling up about an 8 per cent grade.

The driver slowed the gears and as he did so, the truck stalled and apparently slipped or stripped the gears.

The driver applied the brakes, but they would not hold, and the truck began rolling backwards down the hill.

A short time later I came to, and with another fellow (Brian Roundy, Provo) walked about 2 1/2 miles along the road to where a man was mending fences."

The rancher, Clynn Haws, Escalante, drove the boys to Escalante where they met Sheriff Middleton at a cafe, and reported the accident.

Sheriff Middleton notified crews of the State Road Department who were just coming off work. They immediately drove to the scene and began shuttling the injured and dead to the Panguitch Hospital in state-owned panel pickup trucks.

One of the workers was Warthen Allen of Escalante. "When I heard of the accident I immediately drove there in a station wagon. It was an awful thing to see. They loaded me up with seven and I immediately drove back to Escalante."

are cleaned up as much as possible. If the parents are notified and they are not badly hurt I will give you permission if it is all right with the patient," the doctor said.

We had gone through a wash and started up a steep road on the other side when the driver was pinned underneath.

Those of us who were not hurt and a number who I later learned were injured tried to jack up the truck off the injured.

We jacked up the truck and



Delay Okayed In Rail Strike

WASHINGTON (UPI)

Railroad union officials agreed Tuesday to hold off the threat of a nationwide rail strike until at least next week.

The proposal, advanced by Labor Secretary W. Willard Wirtz, was accepted by the railroad companies Monday.

Union officials considered the proposal Tuesday morning and then sent out telegrams announcing their agreements to the plan. They then resumed bargaining talks on the thorny work rules issue and the threat it poses to thousands of rail jobs.

Under Wirtz's plan, both sides agreed "to maintain the status quo" until 12:01 a.m. EDT next Tuesday.

Victims Insured On Life, Injuries

Donn R. Amott, treasurer of Socotwa School Expeditions, said every member of the ill-fated Escalante tour was insured against accidental death for \$5,000.

He said the insurance also



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