



Family members and friends of those who died or survived the truck wreck gather for dedication of the red sandstone marker.

CARCASS WASH

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Dedication marks tragedy, healing

Monument commemorates 1963 crash in S. Utah that killed 13.

By Dennis Romboy
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CARCASS WASH, Kane County — Jim Taylor regained consciousness in the back of a station wagon wondering why he wasn't having the time of his life running the Colorado River with his Explorer Scout buddies. The truck wreck that claimed the lives of 13 of his teenage friends and adult leaders bound for Hole-in-the-Rock 30 years ago Thursday didn't seem real to him then.

"It was almost a dream to some of us. We refused to believe it. I was like that," Taylor said.

Taylor, 47, whose father, Harvey Darrel Taylor died in the accident, can't remember much about what happened June 10, 1963. "I've been thankful a lot that was blocked out. I don't know how I would have handled it," he said.

But Thursday at the dedication of a monument to those who died, Taylor lingered with those who do remember.

"I've had a lot of blanks for years and I want to sort through all those," he said. "I am glad that I came. I need to work out those

details. As painful as it is, I just need to know."

Taylor wasn't alone.

Hundreds of family members and friends of those who lived and died in the horrible accident in the southern Utah desert gathered around the red sandstone marker to soothe the emotional wounds. Tracy Hall Sr. offered a dedicatory prayer. Hall's two sons and a nephew survived the crash; a second nephew died.

The accident occurred when the 2½-ton cattle truck loaded with Scouts from Provo Explorer Post 36, their leaders and others failed to climb a steep hill and overturned in the wash. Of the 49 passengers, 13 were killed and 26 injured. The group was en route to Hole-in-the-Rock to begin a river trip on the Colorado just prior to the im-

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