

PRAYER

Students defy ban and pray at graduation

Bountiful and Davis kids join others across nation in challenging ruling.

By Karl Cates
Deseret News staff writer

Students at Bountiful and Davis high schools interrupted scheduled graduation services Friday night to offer prayers.

Jason Sanders, one of about 600 in this year's Davis High graduating class, received a standing ovation for his move, which was in defiance of state and federal laws that prohibit prayer at public-school ceremonies.

"It was in the spirit of preserving a tradition at Davis High School," said James Oldham, parent of one graduate. "It was something I think most people in the audience felt very good about."

The demonstration was one of several around the country this week challenging a U.S. Supreme Court ruling that commencement exercise prayer at public schools violates the Constitution's doctrine separating church and state.

At Bountiful High School, Joseph Clay, a student body vice president approached the podium



Tom Heal, left, and Lee Colvin examine monument. To pay for it, they collected donations from survivors and from families of victims.

Monument to lost friends

NEWSLINE

Davis sets extra fee for Antelope causeway

FARMINGTON — Visitors to Antelope Island State Park will pay an extra fee to use the causeway leading to the park when it opens July 1.

The Davis County Commission has set a fee of \$2 per carload, or \$1 for hikers and bicyclists, to cross the causeway. The fees are on top of the standard \$3 per carload or \$1 per biker the state will charge to get into the park.

The extra fee will be collected by the state and paid back to the county on a quarterly basis, going into a fund to maintain the causeway.

Davis County owns the seven-mile causeway west of Syracuse, which was constructed with state money under the supervision of the county's public works department.

Commercial tour buses will pay a \$5 causeway fee, but educational groups with prior arrangements will not be charged. The county will also honor the state parks senior citizen passes.

Boards resume talks on cemetery leasing

Negotiations have resumed between the Salt Lake Board of Education and the Mt. Olivet Cemetery Association Board over possible lease of 15 acres of unused cemetery property.

The school district would like to lease or buy the land for athletic fields and a football stadium. But the Rev. Donald Baird, pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Salt Lake City

Court ruling that commencement exercise prayer at public schools violates the Constitution's doctrine separating church and state.

At Bountiful High School, Joseph Clay, a student body vice president approached the podium with senior class president Tiffany Ivins and offered a prayer that lasted about 30 seconds. The prayer was followed by some cheers and applause, Principal Rulon Homer said.

Homer said that he was unaware of plans for the prayer until it was offered. He said he told student officers of the Davis District policy prohibiting prayer when they were planning services. Clay was on a trip with the school's choir and was unavailable for comment.

Sanders said he was careful not to let Davis High administrators know about his plan to offer the prayer. But he said he proceeded after consulting several members of the class and receiving unanimous support from them.

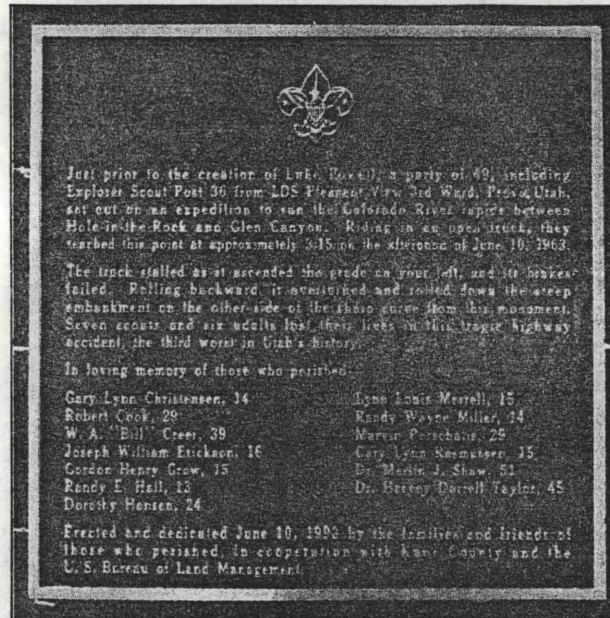
He said it was a freedom of religion issue.

"We didn't think they could take it away from us," said Sanders, who walk up unannounced to the podium midway through a fellow student's speech. The speaker was expecting Sanders' prayer, and stepped aside for him.

Sanders said he said a "non-denominational" prayer acknowledged

Please see **PRAYERS** on B3

Monument to lost friends



The plaque on the monument recounts how the terrible accident occurred. It is located at the site of the June 10, 1963, rollover.

13 died on Scouting trip in 1963 when truck rolled off hillside in S. Utah.

By Dennis Romboy
Deseret News staff writer



SUNDAY EXTRA

Wash for 27 years, wanting to leave painful memories of a horrible accident unturned in the desert sand.

Still, on a warm Easter weekend three years ago, the childhood friends found themselves bounding on a dirt road paralleling the red and yellow brilliance of the Kaiparowits Plateau, Garfield County. They knew the wash was somewhere along the path but weren't sure whether they'd recognize it.

When Heal and Colvin last

traveled the bumpy road June 10, 1963, in the back of a cattle truck teeming with rollicking Boy Scouts and leaders, their destination was Hole-in-the-Rock, 62 miles southeast of Escalante, Kane County. The historic Mormon pioneer crossing was to be the starting point for an expedition on a stretch of the Colorado River that would soon be immersed in Lake Powell.

"We were really excited to be among the last people to ever see it," Colvin said.

But the truck never made it that far. It failed to climb a steep hill and overturned at Carcass Wash, killing seven Boy Scouts from Provo Explorer Post 36 and six adults. Twenty-six others were injured. Ten more escaped the wreckage unscathed.

On their return trip, Heal and Colvin instantly recognized the accident site. "There wasn't a rock out of place," Colvin said. They recalled standing on the road overlooking the wash.

"It was as though there was a

Please see **FRIENDS** on B2

Cemetery Association Board over possible lease of 15 acres of unused cemetery property.

The school district would like to lease or buy the land for athletic fields and a football stadium. But the Rev. Donald Baird, pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Salt Lake City and the head of the cemetery board, has expressed concerns about potential lease prices and duration and was quite unhappy with the school board's recent announcement that it would condemn the land if necessary.

At a recent meeting, the cemetery board asked the school board's negotiating team to drop plans for a condemnation resolution, and the school board team agreed, said school board member Roger Thompson.

He told the school board last week that a recent negotiation was "fruitful" and that he expected a mutually satisfying agreement could be reached.

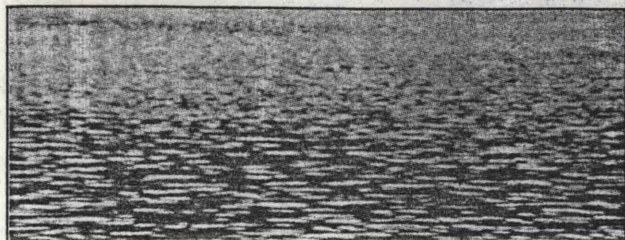
Police search for pair in U. bookstore holdup

Employees terrorized Friday in an early morning holdup at the University of Utah bookstore had the day off Saturday.

Meanwhile, police continued to search for two men who held the employees at gunpoint. A composite sketch of one of the men has

been circulated to a variety of law enforcement agencies in hopes it will produce more information on the foiled heist, the University of Utah Police said.

Around 7:05 a.m. Friday, two men dressed in grey suits and



COMMENCEMENT

Graduates at USU told to serve



TRAGEDY

June 10 is day area's residents can't forget

Boys were 'singing and hollering' when truck passed by rancher.

By Dennis Romboy
Deseret News staff writer

ESCALANTE — Cecil Griffin waved to a passing truckload of Boy Scouts as he mended a cow fence near Dance Hall Rock about 40 miles outside Escalante. He remembers thinking to himself that the boys were headed for a good time.

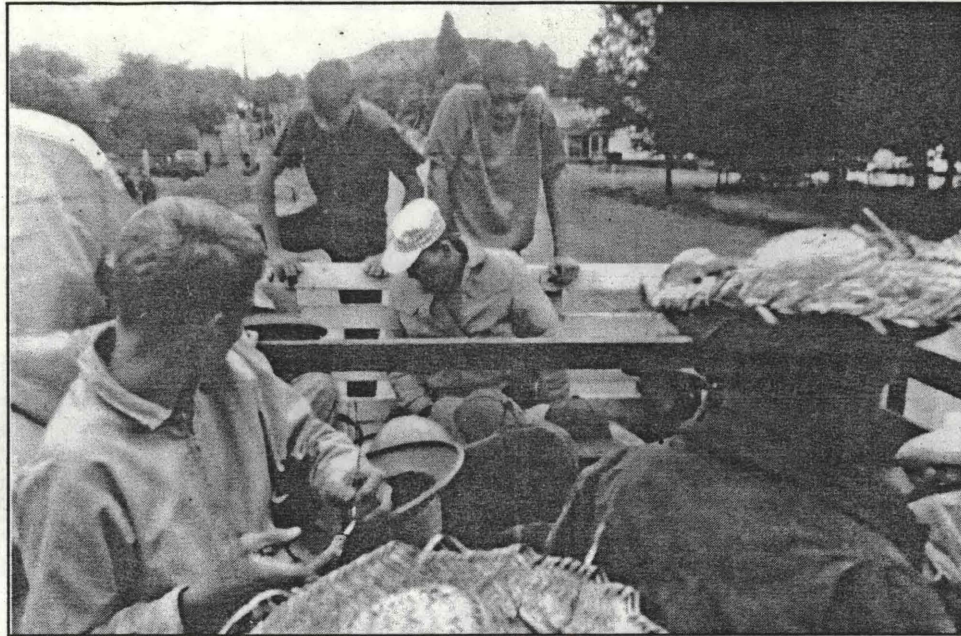
"They seemed happy. They were singing and hollering."

Minutes later, the merriment turned to screams of agony. The 2½-ton cattle truck stalled out on a steep hill and rolled backward into a wash. Some of the 49 passengers jumped or were thrown from the truck as it overturned. Others were pinned beneath it and the heavy provisions that had been packed onto the bed.

Griffin's work was about done when two of the least-injured boys, Tom Heal and Brian Roundy, approached him. They told him the truck had tipped over.

"I asked these two boys, 'Is anyone hurt?'" he said. Griffin, 68, said the boys didn't seem to know how serious the accident was. He recalled them saying they thought someone had a broken arm.

Before driving Heal and Roundy to Escalante to summon authorities, Griffin told rancher Klyn Haws, who was chasing cows in the desert, about the wreck. Haws, 65, borrowed another cowboy's two-ton truck and drove about two miles to Carcass Wash. He was the first person to arrive at the accident scene.



A Provo boy snapped a picture of happy Scouts and adults before they left for a river-running trip.

probably died in transit somewhere between the scene and Panguitch Hospital.

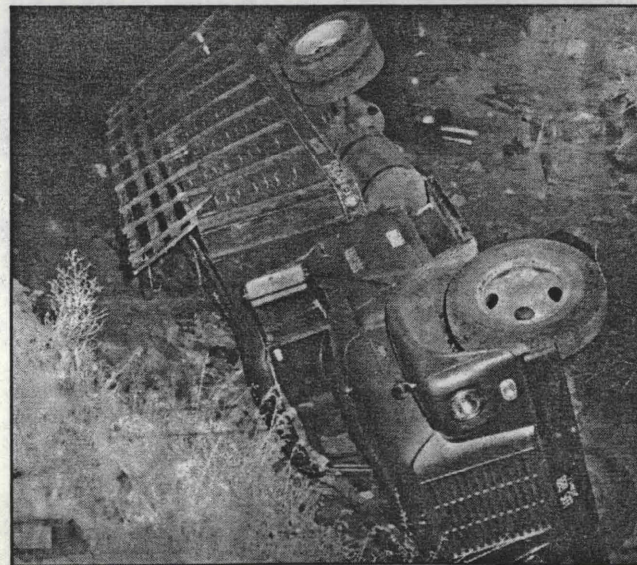
Shirley Bulkley, a medical assistant for a Panguitch doctor, was about to go home when she was called to the 10-bed hospital for an emergency.

"We moved all the patients to one corner and prepared for what we didn't really know," she said. "We didn't have an ambulance in Panguitch at that time. We all had station wagons. We just commandeered what we needed."

People living in towns stretching from Panguitch to Escalante headed to the desert.

"Just one carload after another came in and all kinds of injuries," said Otho "Buck" Bulkley, Shirley's husband and a Utah Highway Patrol trooper assigned to the hospital. The tiny hospital's rooms and hallways were packed. Some patients were later transported to Utah Valley Hospital in Provo.

"It was the worst day of my life and also the most inspirational because of the courage those boys



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SCOUT

Time fails to erode memory of brother

By Dennis Romboy
Deseret News staff writer

Erosion has nearly erased the first three letters of the name "Gordon" scratched into a red sandstone hill overlooking Carcass Wash. But memories of the boy for whom the stone was etched won't be weathered.

Gordon Henry Grow was among the seven Boy Scouts and six adults killed 30 years ago in a truck wreck in the desert 47 miles southeast of Escalante.

David Grow, Gordon's older brother, won't admit to carving the name in the sandstone, but survivors think he did it a year or so after the accident. They also say he removed the Bureau of Land Management sign that reads "Carcass Wash."

Grow, 53, said he didn't steal the sign, but he's glad it isn't there.

"I think it would be appropriate that, in view of the fact that 13 people lost their lives there, it should be changed," he said. "There are dozens of other names."

The BLM doesn't know how the wash got its name. Early settlers likely named it after finding dead cattle or wildlife there.

If Grow did climb the sandstone hill one day to scratch G-O-R-D-O-N into the soft rock, it wasn't his only attempt to hold on to his brother.

"A couple of years after (the accident), I felt obligated to live Gordon's life, too. I took his girlfriend horseback riding. I think I took her out for a milkshake," he said. "I don't know why I did it. I guess it was an effort to create a little extension of his life if I could."

David Grow finally shed Gordon's life for his own, although he always felt his brother was missing out.

"At the birth of a child or a romantic moment, I felt for him," he said. David Grow now owns Bridal

Veil Falls and a radio station.

The Grow family was together the day of the accident when they received a telephone call from the Highway Patrol. D. Spencer Grow, their father, immediately chartered an airplane to Panguitch. He and his sons, David and Steve, found out at the hospital that Gordon had died.

Steve Grow, the second oldest son, also felt the loss.

"It impacted my attitude toward death. I particularly wanted to gain a little bit more understanding of the death process. For that year, it just affected my social skills and general balance as I think any tragedy does to people."

Steve Grow, now an attorney, helped dig and fill his brother's grave. An anonymous person places flowers at the headstone each year on Gordon's birthday or the anniversary of his death. Steve Grow said he has a pretty good idea of who that person is.

Tom Heal has always felt guilty for inviting his friend, Gordon Grow, on the trip. Heal's feelings have prevented him from associating much with the Grow family over the years.

"To some extent, I've been hesitant, too," Steve Grow, 48, said. "I've always wanted to know how Gordon died, but in many ways I haven't wanted to discuss or relive those aspects."

Says David Grow, "Do we hold some grudges? Yes. But not against Tom." He said the outfitter, Socotwa Expeditions, was ill-prepared to take Scouts into the rugged southern Utah desert. "I think the trip was a fiasco."

But the Grow brothers believe the erection of a monument might be an opportunity for healing.

"I think it's a beautiful place to commune with God and feel close to those who have gone on," Steve Grow said. "I have a fairly strong feeling that the spirits of those who died will be there."

DESERET NEWS FILE PHOTOS

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Before driving Heal and Roundy to Escalante to summon authorities, setting in motion an outpouring of aid from local townspeople, Griffin told rancher Klyn Haws, who was chasing cows in the desert, about the wreck. Haws, 65, borrowed another cowboy's two-ton truck and drove about two miles to Carcass Wash. He was the first person to arrive at the accident scene.

"The truck was laying down in the wash upside down. There was kids everywhere," Haws said. "I remember them kids looking up at me: 'Help us if you can.' They had that look."

Haws was only there long enough for the uninjured to load six or seven injured into the cab and bed of the truck. A less-injured boy rode in the back to stabilize two other victims, one of whom Haws remembers was a woman news reporter. Dorothy Hansen, who worked for the Deseret News,

emergency.

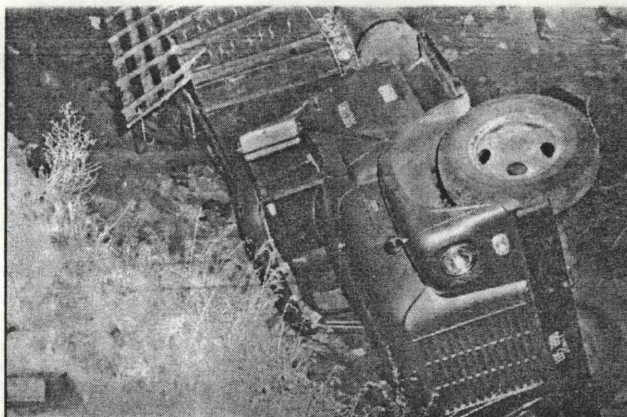
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"It was the worst day of my life and also the most inspirational because of the courage those boys showed," he said. "One boy told me, 'Take care of my friend first.'" In 27 years as a trooper, Bulkley, 69, investigated hundreds of automobile wrecks. "With all the accidents, I've never seen people so unselfish as those boys were."

The Bulkleys' 16-year-old son, Ronald, and his grandfather, Brown Sanford, were among those who went to the scene. They carried five dead to the hospital in the family station wagon. In all, 12 died at the scene, the hospital or



Most of the seven Scouts and six adults who died were pinned beneath the truck and the equipment that had been packed into it.

somewhere in between. A 13th died a couple of days later.

"That was quite an experience for him to go through," Bulkley said of Ronald. After it was over, the father asked his son about it. Ronald told him he was all right, except for one thing. "He said, 'I sat down by a boy and started talking to him. He was dead,'" Bulkley said.

Bulkley's fellow trooper, Lester Paul Blackburn, took charge of the accident scene after driving more than 70 miles from his home in Glendale, Kane County, to get

there. Heal, whom Blackburn picked up at an Escalante gas station, directed him to the site.

Blackburn, 65, took pictures at the scene for his report and called the accident the "worst I ever saw."

The tragedy left vivid impressions on Blackburn and Bulkley, both seasoned law officers.

"It always bothers you more when youngsters are involved. I don't think anyone could go through that and ever forget it," Bulkley said. "I still get a lump in my throat after all these years."

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DesNews reporter wanted to write about river trip

By Dennis Rombo
Deseret News staff writer

The articles that Dorothy June Hansen planned to write about her trip down the Colorado River were to be her last ones published in the Deseret News for a while.



Dorothy Hansen
1963.

Hansen never got the chance to type those stories because she was among the 13 people who died in a truck accident in the southern Utah desert, 47 miles southeast of Escalante. A member of the Sacra Dulce Chorus, Hansen planned to meet other members of the group at Hole-in-the-Rock. The river trip was to be a working vacation.

Mary Prior remembers her younger sister as the adventurous type.

"If we were going swimming,

Dorothy would jump in and I would walk in slowly," she said.

Hansen, who was 24 when she died, had worked at the Deseret News for five years as a copy girl, city desk secretary and reporter. Her city editor, Norman R. Bowen, wrote, "With her infectious enthusiasm and thirst for knowledge, (she) lost no time in starting her way up through the ranks." Hansen's only formal training in journalism was a course at the College of Southern Utah.

Her last column, written shortly before leaving for Escalante, was a Father's Day tribute to her dad. It was published five days after her death.

Hansen's byline appeared in the Deseret News one more time, on the first anniversary of the truck accident.

Using excerpts from Hansen's "Treasures of Truth" diary, the newspaper compiled a story about her difficult upbringing as the 13th of James Elmer and Edith Willisen Hansen's 14 children on a farm in Gunnison. Edith Hansen died after the birth of the last child, when Dorothy was 4.

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Dedication ceremony

The monument at the accident site will be dedicated at 3 p.m. June 10, the date and approximate time of the crash 30 years ago. Those participating will meet at the LDS stake center in Escalante at noon and then travel to the accident site. Tracy Hall of Provo, a retired Brigham Young University professor who was bishop of the Pleasant View Ward at the time, will offer the dedicatory prayer.

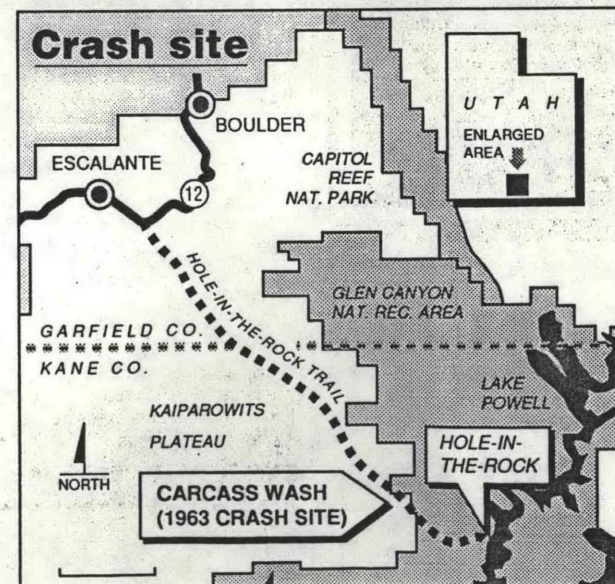
Tom Heal said 150 to 175 people from the Provo-Orem area are expected to attend, as well as people from Garfield County. "We have never had a chance to meet and thank them for their help."

FRIENDS

Continued from B1
time lapse. As we stood there, I could hear the brakes squealing. I could hear the gears grinding. I could feel the dust blowing in my face," Heal said. "It wasn't just a negative experience. It was positive, too. One would think that it would bring back all the horror of the experience. It did that. But it brought back a lot of fond memories also."

Deseret News reporter and others who'd hitched a ride.

The boys and their leaders traveled from Provo to Escalante by bus. Expedition leaders decided the bus couldn't handle the unpaved road to Hole-in-the-Rock, so they loaded all the provisions into the cattle truck. The party, which had swelled to 49 people, piled in the truck, three in the cab and 46 in the back. (Boy Scouts of America rules prohibited Scouts from riding in an open truck long before



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Heal and Colvin spent a couple of hours at Carcass Wash that spring day piecing together repressed details. During their reminiscing, they committed to someday erect a monument to their friends who died. For three years they solicited donations. Nearly every survivor and family of an accident victim contributed.

Their idea became a reality on two weekends this spring. Colvin laid the foundation in April. Stone mason Ken Jorgensen, whom Heal and Colvin hired, built the marker in May.

"People who camp down there have no idea something significant happened years ago," Colvin said. "Maybe they can just stop for a moment and think about their own lives. A lot of good people left the planet right there."

The monument will be dedicated on the accident's 30th anniversary June 10, at 3 p.m., the approximate time of the accident.

Heal knows the hour because one of the 46 people sitting on tons of camping and rafting gear in the back of the 2½-ton cattle truck asked him the time as the truck sputtered to a momentary halt on a hill it would never climb.

Most of the boys on board were members of the Provo Explorer post sponsored by the Pleasant Vjiew Ward, East Sharon Stake, of the LDS Church. The adults were Scout leaders, fathers, guides for Sçotwta School Expeditions, a

Deseret News reporter and others who'd hitched a ride.

The boys and their leaders traveled from Provo to Escalante by bus. Expedition leaders decided the bus couldn't handle the unpaved road to Hole-in-the-Rock, so they loaded all the provisions into the cattle truck. The party, which had swelled to 49 people, piled in the truck, three in the cab and 46 in the back. (Boy Scouts of America rules prohibited Scouts from riding in an open truck long before the accident. Scout leaders throughout Utah have since used it as an example.)

About 13 miles from the group's destination, truck driver Ernest S. Ahlborn, a 21-year-old Brigham Young University student, rounded a horseshoe bend and began ascending an 8 percent grade.

"I vividly remember the truck not being able to make it up the hill. I remember him grinding the gears trying to get into a low gear," Heal said.

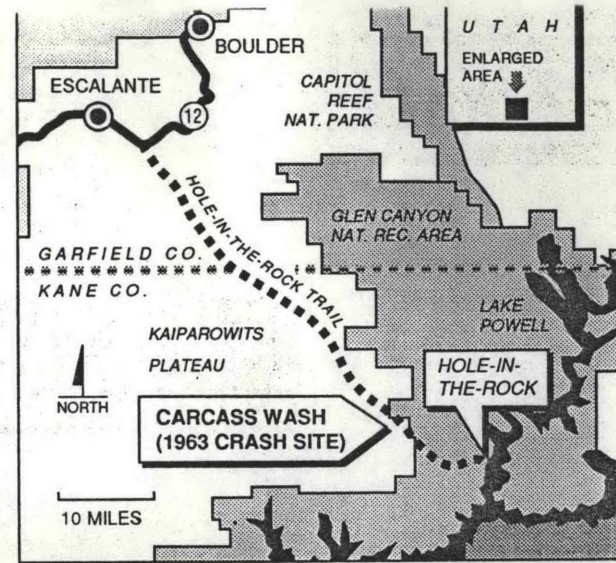
The clutch never engaged, the truck stalled and went into a reverse roll. The brakes, later found to lack fluid in the master cylinder, didn't catch. The truck rolled backward 124 feet before tumbling over a 35-foot embankment, spilling people and gear into a gulch. Many were trapped beneath the heavy truck and its cargo.

Some victims remember boys crying for someone to kill them because of excruciating pain.

Ron Clark lay under the mangled gas tank, which leaked fluid over his clothes. Clark suffered dislocated vertebrae, a twisted leg and broken jaw. He knocked the jaw back into place with a right cross and waited for medical help, never losing consciousness. Help wouldn't come for hours.

"I kept asking myself 'why, why, why,'" Clark said. "The first prayer I offered in a long time was under that truck."

Heal heard Kilmer Roundy, a fa-



ther accompanying his son on the trip, yell "We're going down," and tried to leap off the hurtling truck but caught his foot in some camping gear. "So, I went down with it."

"All I know is the truck was on top of me. I could see light out," Heal said. He wriggled out from under tons of gear and passed out.

"When I woke up, he (Kilmer Roundy) gave me a canteen and told me and Brian (Roundy) to go for help," Heal said. The two boys began walking the dirt road back to Escalante. Heal, who had broken ribs, said he expected to walk the 47 miles to the town. But two miles down the road, he and Roundy ran into a rancher who drove them to Escalante.

Colvin was riding on top of the cab with two other boys, one of whom jumped and was crushed to death under a wheel of the rolling truck.

The truck landed upside down on Colvin, crushing his right foot between a rock and a steel case full of gear. Amputation appeared imminent, but doctors at the scene didn't have the tools. Colvin's foot hasn't grown since.

Nobody knows how many hours it took to get medical help to the injured boys and adults. Heal estimated it was at least four hours

before people and police from Escalante and surrounding areas made it to the accident site.

Rescuers began removing those pinned under the truck one by one. They jacked up one side of the truck, stacked flat rocks under it and moved the jack to the other side to do the same thing. They came to a point where the precariously perched truck would topple if cranked up any higher. Only Colvin and Clark remained underneath, lying cater-cornered from each other.

Elevating Colvin's side would surely crush Clark. Elevating Clark's side would surely crush Colvin. Rescuers informed the conscious teenagers of the dilemma. Each told them to save the other. Both said they grabbed a handful of red desert sand and waited for the truck to shift on top of them. It never did.

It was hours after the accident before all the injured were transported to Panguitch Hospital by people from nearby towns. The hospital had no ambulances.

No one involved in the accident has forgotten it.

"I recall the day as if it was just last Monday," said Clark, now hosting coordinator at BYU. "Something physically or emotion-



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Clark, 45, said watching his oldest son go through the Scout program emotionally drained him.

"When I saw his bedroll and backpack in the living room ready to go, I had this sinking, sinking feeling," he said. "I had a nervous anticipation until he got home."

Roger Sheffield recalls the accident with sadness. "Maybe there was a loss of innocence with that, to realize how life is so fragile." He remembers waiting for help at the scene and lying on a hospital bed next to a boy who died.

"I'm sure it was years before I stopped thinking about it every day. But it's faded into the past now," he said. Still, Sheffield, 44, said he wonders about the guy in the next bed.

Now a general surgeon, Sheffield has numerous opportunities to save lives. "My parents always told me that's when I decided to be a physician," he said. Sheffield doesn't remember if that's true but said it makes a good story.

Several of the survivors live with pent-up feelings of anguish and guilt. Today, psychologists would be called in to talk with the survivors. Support groups might be arranged. Thirty years ago, emotional wounds were turned over to Father Time.

"We had the funeral and it was over. We put it behind us and nobody talked about it anymore," Heal said. "We were 15 years old at the time, and we were just left to

figure out how to deal with it."

Although his disabled right foot is a constant reminder of the accident, Colvin doesn't let it gnaw at him.

"I don't reflect back and think, 'Gee, if I didn't go on that trip, this wouldn't have happened.' It was just an accident."

A Salt Lake County property manager, Colvin enjoys the outdoors, especially motorcycle riding. "I refuse to be limited."

Kilmer Roundy, 67, now retired and living in Washington, Utah, said the accident didn't change his outlook or the course of his life.

"It kind of haunts you, but you can't let it dominate your life," he said. But he still questions one thing. "I wonder why did a group of adults let a load like that in the back of an open truck?"

That question still rests heavy on the minds of a couple of the adults who went on or helped plan the trip. Both declined to be interviewed, but in brief comments expressed extreme sorrow.

"Why didn't I keep those wonderful young men home?" said one.

The other doesn't want to relive the past or see a monument erected.

Colvin understands. "I hope this commemoration doesn't become a second funeral. I don't want any eulogies. We don't want people to be saddened by this experience," he said.