

THE WEATHER

Salt Lake City—Partly cloudy.

Utah—Partly cloudy.

(See details on Page A-3)

DESERET NEWS

Salt Lake Telegram

TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Empire 4-2541—News Dept.

Empire 4-1111—News Tips Only

Elgin 5-7475—Information

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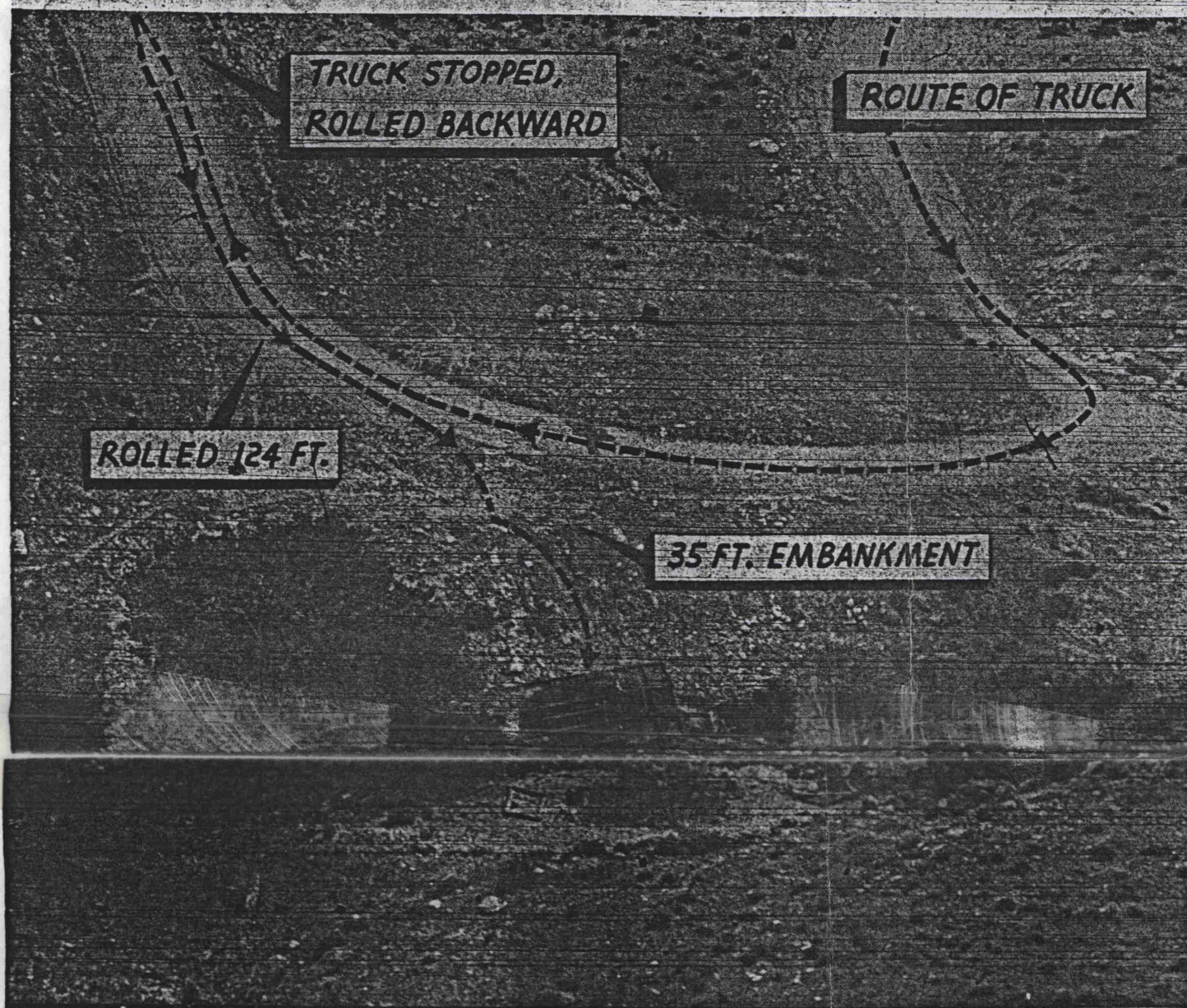
EDITORIAL OFFICES: 23 RICHARDS ST.

VOL. 359 NO. 132 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



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
Deseret News Staff

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.

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 staff writer.

At least two persons were 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 mishap occurred at about 3:30 p.m. Monday, but it was not until about two hours later that survivors summoned assistance from nearby towns.

The State Highway Patrol received the first report of the accident at 5:27 p.m.

The truck, operated by the Socotowa 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., Salt Lake City. He was a teacher at Highland High School.

Joe Erickson, 15, son of Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Erickson, Provo.

William Greer, 39, 300 E. 1900 North, Provo, assistant scoutmaster with the party.

Gordon Henry Grow, 15, son of Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Henry Grow, Provo.

See CRASH on Page A-6

13 Deaths Push Utah Toll To 97

Utah's 1963 highway death count climbed from 84 to 97 Tuesday, after a youth died from injuries received earlier in a Parleys Canyon crash and 12 persons died in a truck crash on a desolate road near Escalante.

The truck crash occurred Monday afternoon, when a truck carrying Boy Scouts and Explorers to a river-running trip met disaster. The youth who died Tuesday was the third to die as a result of the Parleys Canyon mishap.

On this date a year ago, 74 Utahns had died in highway accidents during 1962.

BSA Launches Probe Of Truck Accident

Even though the expedition to "Hole in the Rock" Monday that resulted in a tragic accident which claimed 12 lives was not an official Scout expedition, the Boy Scouts of America launched an investigation Tuesday.

Frank D. Sawyer, president of the Greater Salt Lake Council, Boy Scouts of America, Tuesday morning announced that the national safety director of scouting from New Jersey and a field executive from Los Angeles were en route to Salt Lake City.

"Though the accident was not an official Scout junket we feel grief-stricken about the accident. I was attending a Scout meeting Monday night when word first reached me," Mr. Sawyer said.

"We are just as concerned about the accident as we would be if it had been an official Scout trip," Mr. Sawyer said.

"This company (Socotowa) has been taking groups of Scouts on various types of expeditions and have good equipment and have a good record," Mr. Sawyer added.

"However, because many Scout families are involved, we want to assist and do everything we can. Offhand I don't know what we can do, but we can learn something from this tragic mishap that will prevent other similar mishaps," Mr. Sawyer explained.

Wallace 'Gives' In South Crisis

By AL KUETINER

TUSCALOOSA, ALA. (UPI)

Gov. George Wallace prepared Tuesday to surrender to a "armed might of the federal government" and permit admission of two Negro students to the University of Alabama.

Top sources close to the governor, including his press secretary confirmed that Wallace undoubtedly would step aside when troops of the federal government arrive on the campus to enforce a federal court order segregating the university.

Wallace waited in Foster Auditorium—the place where two Negroes will register—his final confrontation and ultimate surrender.

His Never Said
Bill Jones, press secretary to the governor, told reporters at Wallace has "never said" he will oppose the armed might of the federal government.

It thus appeared that Wallace was ready to capitulate in defiance of a federal court order and President Kennedy's order to "cease and desist" from interfering with the enrollment of the two Negroes.

Mr. Kennedy, in an executive order, ordered the Alabama National Guard federalized to force the admission of the two Negroes and authorized the use of whatever Army troops might be necessary to enforce the order.

The governor's decision followed a dramatic confrontation with a Justice Department official in the blazing sun outside Foster Auditorium where the Negroes would register and a flat refusal to step aside.

Jones said Wallace will again present himself as a physical barrier at the door of Foster Auditorium but will stand aside before the Army.

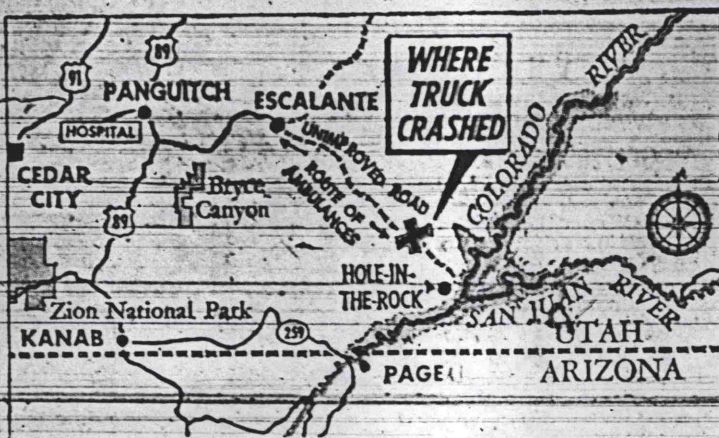
He said the highway patrol would again be lined up with the governor but that no attempt would be made to oppose the troops.

Waiting For Troops
Another of the governor's top aides said:

"The governor is waiting for the troops. There will be no showing or pushing. There may be a minute's word battle and then he will fly back to Montgomery or to Huntsville if necessary."

A third Negro student, Dave McClathery, is scheduled to be enrolled at the university's extension center at Huntsville Thursday.

Jones said four units of the federalized guard would come here from Berry, Demopolis, Birmingham and Fayette. He See WALLACE, Page A-5



This is where open truck carrying 46 persons overturned southeast of Escalante, hurling many to death in bottom of rocky wash.

U. Of U. Confers Degrees On 1,760

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 Oplin, 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. Cottam, 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 justice of the California Supreme Court, for constructive interest in judicial reform, and for scholarly leadership in his chosen profession.

Dr. Cottam was cited "in recognition of his excellence as a teacher and his contribution to scientific knowledge, for his great service to the state and nation as a courageous leader in the conservation of natural resources and for his integrity of intellect and purpose." He received an honorary Doctor of Science degree.

Mr. Eccles was cited "in recognition of his statesmanship as banker and business leader on a local, national, and international level; and his deep, personal interest in mankind through the sponsorship of medical research."

Justice Traynor was cited "in recognition of contributions to legal education, for long and distinguished service as associate justice of the Supreme Court of California, for constructive interest in judicial reform, and for scholarly leadership in his chosen profession."

Both Mr. Eccles and Justice Traynor were awarded honorary Doctor of Laws degrees.

Justice Traynor was the baccalaureate speaker Sunday evening.

Graduates received 91 doctorate degrees, 47 in medicine, 42 in philosophy, and two in education; 198 master's degrees, and 1,471 bachelor's degrees, 39 in laws and 1,432 in arts and sciences.

In brief remarks President Oplin praised the class for its initiative and interest in education, noted that nearly 60 percent of the graduates were married and that more than 60 percent already have a job.

See U. OF U. on Page A-5

Sheriff's Report Links Crash To 'Tricky Shift'

By ROBERT MULLINS

Deseret News Staff Writer

ESCALANTE, Kane County

A tricky shift of gears on a steep incline apparently led to the tragic accident in southeastern Utah which claimed 12 lives and injured 26 persons Monday afternoon.

This was the preliminary report of Kane County Sheriff Lanard Johnson who Tuesday at daybreak began inspection of the truck which plummeted over a 35-foot cliff.

He said the truck driver had to shift from second gear to first gear during the climb up the hill.

"It is a difficult and tricky shift and could be partly responsible for the accident," Sheriff Johnson said.

He reported that the brakes of the truck were in working order, that the brake fluid was up, and that the drive shaft on the truck was in good order.

The transmission of the truck also appeared in good condition.

However, Sheriff Johnson said he would have to inspect the gear box within the transmission before he could make a final decision.

Col. Lyle Hyatt of the State Highway Patrol said Tuesday morning that he has impounded the truck.

"I want to know whether the truck had been inspected thoroughly, and if so who had inspected it," he said. He said he was particularly interested in the condition of the brakes.

"I also want to know under what authority an open truck was used to carry 46 persons."

See PROBE on Page A-5

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 Rex and Alf Pratte gathered the necessary details from that grieving city.

Reprint 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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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