

The crowd gathers at the monument site near Escalante which marks the site of an accident that killed Boy Scouts.

Monument marks accident

Survivors honor fellow scouts

By JANET HART

Herald Staff Writer

ESCALANTE — A desolate place of tragedy was transformed Thursday into a source of healing as hundreds gathered to dedicate a monument to the victims of one of Utah's worst traffic accidents.

Although the event, which killed nine Provo Boy Scouts and leaders, occurred 30 years ago, memories of it brought tears to many in the crowd of more than 300 people.

"There's been a lot of healing because of this. It brought together lots of people who prior to this

haven't spoken at all about it. It's been very good for them," said Provo resident Tom Heal, a survivor of the accident who helped spearhead the monument project.

The group consisted of survivors, the family and friends of victims and residents of Escalante and other surrounding towns. The tears, hugs, handshakes and shared stories were evidence of the tragedy's profound effects.

On July 10, 1963, a group of 49 people left Provo's Pleasant View meeting house for a Colorado River expedition. Included in the group were numerous

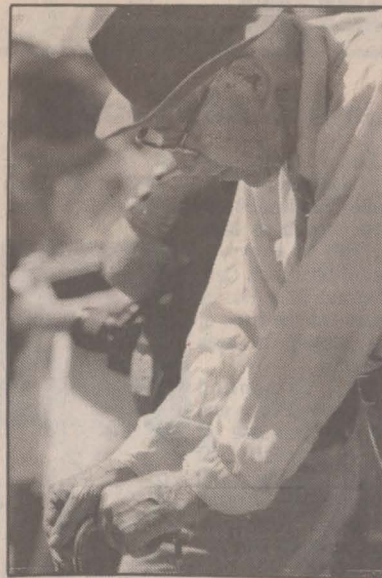
scouts and leaders from Explorer Scout Post 36 in the Pleasant View Ward.

The group was scheduled to enter the river at Hole-In-The-Rock and travel south to Glen Canyon.

However, the trip ended abruptly about 15 miles from their destination when the cattle truck they were traveling in stalled going up Carcass Wash, rolled backwards and plunged over a 30-foot embankment.

Because the Scouts had been riding in the back of the truck, many were pinned under the wreckage when it finally came to rest.

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A man bows his head during the services.