

SAILBOAT FOUND CAPSIZED TODAY, NO TRACE OF 3 OCCUPANTS SEEN

4-22-37

Boat Gives Mute Evidence
Of Tragedy That Over-
took 3 Last Night

RUDDER IS BROKEN

Heavy Wind Believed To
Have Spilled Sailors In-
to the Water

The blue waters of Boulder lake, whipped into rolling whitecaps by a heavy wind which roared thru the canyons, wrote what is believed to be the first fatal tragedy of the lake when they probably claimed the lives of three Boulder City young men sometime early last evening.

The three men, Charles Lillybridge, 27, employed as an electrician by the government; Herb Bowman, 24, employe of Bill O'Hara; and Mike Slosson, 25, guide service employe, left the boat landing in Regatta bay about 8:30 last night in a small sail boat. This morning the boat was found, capsized. The three occupants are missing.

The boat was found by Mr. and Mrs. A. B. Witcher, of Las Vegas, who had gone to the lake on a picnic. They sighted it, about a quarter of a mile from shore and waited for it to drift to shore. When it arrived the full story of stark tragedy was unfolded.

TIED TO THE masthead of the boat was a pair of overalls and, slung over the gunwale of the craft was a pair of shoes, indicating, Witcher said, that the owner of the clothing had stripped himself of clothing after the boat had capsized and had attempted to swim to shore. Whether he made it is a question.

Witcher said that the boat, when first sighted, was lying on its side in the water and when it hit the shore it righted itself, revealing that it was under full sail when tragedy overtook it. The upper rudder post was broken and this, according to Witcher, is probably what caused the craft to capsize, as it went out of control.

THE BOAT WAS found about two miles north of the boat landing in the vicinity of Vegas Wash
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Sailboat Found

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and it is believed that the trio had not been sailing more than half an hour, at the most, before tragedy overtook their craft.

When the boys failed to return to the boat landing last night, the government tug boat, St. Thomas, and Merle Emory's boat Paiute took out in search of the craft. After cruising all night and not finding the missing craft, the two boats returned this morning and, after a short rest, set out again.

WHEN THE report that the missing boat had been discovered, Guy Edwards, superintendent of the national parks service, E. W. Bannister, foreman for the national parks service, Captain Charles L. Hall and other park service foremen, with some 70 CCC boys from company 573, started a land search for some trace of the young men or their bodies, while all available boats began cruising the waters of the lake for the bodies.

Search for the young men, or their bodies, is being concentrated in the vicinity of the spot where the boat was found and it is hoped that some definite trace of the trio can be found before nightfall.