

# W. BRATCHER, 50, EARLY WORKER ON DAM, PLUNGES TO HIS DEATH

5-15-39  
No Trace of Body Is Found  
In Water, Despite An  
Active Search

## DIES WHILE FISHING

Second Victim Barely  
Misses Death As He  
Tries to Save His Kin

William Bratcher, 50, one of the original workers on Boulder dam, plunged yesterday to a watery grave in the reservoir he helped create, and up to three o'clock this afternoon his body had not yet been recovered.

Deceased went down in thirty feet of water about 200 yards off shore in Collville Wash, fifteen miles up the lake from Hemenway boat landing, and despite the heroic efforts of his two companions, one of whom almost lost his own life, rescue was impossible.

Bratcher, accompanied by his son-in-law George Mullins and James Roschl, left Las Vegas late yesterday afternoon, carrying a row-boat on their car, and arrived at the head of Collville Wash about five o'clock.

**THEY HAD** been out on the lake only a short time, investigation by the national park service revealed, when Bratcher attempted to change positions with one of the others, lost his balance and plunged into the water.

Mullins and Roschl tossed him an inflated inner tube and when this failed to support his weight, Mullins went overboard to the rescue.

Neither Mullins nor Bratcher could swim, according to parks service ranger, and Roschl had a difficult time pulling the younger man back into the boat.

By this time Bratcher had disappeared, and the two rowed to shore and drove to Las Vegas to report the case to Sheriff M. E. Ward.

**WARD NOTIFIED** the park service, and upon arrival in Boulder City, boarded the park service boat with a ranger, and life-guard and put in at Collville a short time later.

No trace of the body was found and today the boat was sent back, equipped with grappling hooks, in an attempt to bring the remains to the surface.

Bratcher was a carpenter, and one of the first men employed on Boulder dam. During recent weeks he was employed in the construction of the new Safeway store building at Second and Carson streets.

**A RESIDENT** of North Las Vegas, deceased is survived by his widow, two daughters and one son. One daughter, Mrs. Mullins also resides in North Las Vegas, and the other two children are students in the local public schools.