

Auto Crash Kills 2 Bunkerville Men

Lemuel Leavitt, Lister Hardy Die, 3 Others Injured

Two men who were members of pioneer Bunkerville families died in Las Vegas a few hours after receiving critical injuries in an automobile accident 30 miles north of Las Vegas on highway 91 at 7:30 o'clock last night.

Three other men who were traveling with them were injured in the wreck and are patients at the Las Vegas Hospital. They were en route to Bunkerville and Mesquite to visit with relatives and friends.

The dead are:

Lemuel Smith Leavitt, 29, of Bunkerville, who was employed at Boulder dam, who suffered a fractured skull and died about 4 o'clock this morning.

Lister Hardy, 35, of Mesquite, who was employed at the dam, who suffered a fractured back and died about 8:30 o'clock this morning.

The injured are:

Elwood Hardy of Bunkerville, son of Justice of the Peace Warren Hardy of Bunkerville, who was working at the dam. He suffered back injuries but no fractures, and his condition is not considered serious.

Mickey Thomas of Boulder City, driver of the car, who sustained a bad fracture of the leg.

Vernon Holtrey of Boulder City who suffered a severe laceration and other injuries but was the least seriously hurt of the five men, according to hospital reports.

The five-passenger coupe in which they were traveling toward Bunkerville was on the wrong side of the road, making the wide turn toward the second railroad underpass on highway 91 north of Las Vegas at 7:30 o'clock last night, with Thomas driving. The car hit a small marker at the left of the highway, leaped off a 10-foot bank and landed 38 feet beyond on the old highway below, according to the report of Under-sheriff Glenn Jones and Deputy Sheriff D. G. Lawrence, who investigated the crash. The machine continued to roll for 64 yards on the old road, then plunged off another six-foot embankment into boulders and rolled another 80 yards before coming to rest, having somersaulted several times in

the course, the officers stated.

• Only One Stays In

All the occupants were thrown out of the machine except Lister Hardy, who suffered fatal back injuries.

"The car was just traveling too fast and failed to make the turn," Undersheriff Jones stated.

All five men were rushed to Las Vegas for medical treatment, but two of them were fatally hurt and died a few hours later.

Lawrence, who is deputy coroner, stated he would make a complete investigation of the case and will decide later whether to conduct an inquest.

No other car was involved in the accident, and the first tourists along the road reported the accident, Undersheriff Jones stated.

Three of the men in the machine were cousins, Lister Hardy, Elwood Hardy, and Leavitt, of

whom only Elwood Hardy survives.

Leavitt's parents, Mrs. Mary Emma Leavitt of Bunkerville and the late O. D. Leavitt, helped to settle Bunkerville, going there with the late Tom Leavitt and the late Eddie Bunker to start the community. Mr. and Mrs. Charles M. Hardy of Mesquite, parents of Lister Hardy, followed a short time later and are pioneers of the Virgin valley.

Remains of the two men who lost their lives are at the Garrison mortuary in Las Vegas. They will be forwarded to Bunkerville tomorrow for joint services and interment there Sunday.

Lister Hardy was 35 years old and was born at Mesquite. Recently he had been employed at Boulder dam. Surviving are his widow, Mrs. Mable Leavitt Hardy of Mesquite and three small daughters, Roberta, 9, Ravena, 6, and Kathleen, 4; his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Charles M. Hardy of Mesquite; four brothers, Alf Hardy of Las Vegas of the Nevada state police, Leo Hardy, Mark Hardy, and Heber Hardy, all of Mesquite; and three sisters, Mrs. Wanda Hardy Wilson of Mesquite, Miss Orpha Hardy of Clover Valley, and Miss Nevada Hardy of Mesquite.

Leavitt Killed

Leavitt, who was born in Bunkerville, was 29 years old. He had

been working at Boulder dam recently. Surviving are his widow, Mrs. Laura Bowler Leavitt; two small sons, Nolan Leavitt, 4, and a baby son; his mother, Mrs. Mary Ellen Leavitt of Bunkerville; one brother, Elmer Leavitt of Bunkerville; and six sisters, Mrs. Veda Cox and Mrs. Fonda Horsley of Las Vegas, Mrs. Betsy Sprague of Overton, Mrs. Leah Tobler and Mrs. Olive Hardy of Bunkerville, and Mrs. Sarah Barnum of Mesquite.