

Sunset Said Scene of  
Drinking; Flask Said in  
The Wrecked Machine

**NO ONE BADLY HURT**

14 Vegas, Boulder City  
Young People Miracu-  
lously Escape Death

Boulder dam highway liquor resorts were blamed by investigating officers this morning for the serious crash occurring between Sunset and Midway, which completely wrecked a Buick sedan and endangered the lives of fourteen Las Vegas and Boulder City young folks about 10:30. last night.

The accident occurred when the sedan, driven by Harold Epperson, 20 year old Boulder City youth, sideswiped a Chevrolet carrying the Boulder City high school basketball team home after a game in Las Vegas. The Epperson car, according to occupants, was traveling at a rate of 75 miles an hour, and blew a tire when it struck the rear of the Chevrolet, tearing off the highway for a considerable distance and turning over several times.

**NONE OF** the eight occupants of the Buick was seriously hurt, although the car was a complete wreck.

Epperson had stopped at Sunset and had a few drinks, one of the members of the party told investigating officers, while the rest had all imbibed from a bottle of brandy in the car, they stated.

The wrecked automobile was the property of Epperson's step-father, Harry Williams of 916 Fifth street, Boulder City, and young Epperson had been forbidden to drive it because of two previous wrecks in which he had figured with the same car. He took the car without permission, and without the knowledge of his parents, his mother said this morning.

**ACCORDING TO** the story told by one of the girls in the party to an officer this morning, Epperson called with friends at her home last evening, stating that he had to go to Sunset "to collect some money a fellow out there owes me," and invited the group to go along.

Those comprising the party included: Misses Josephine Crawford, Mildred Wadsworth, Verdie Barnum, Jessie Christian and Joe Carlson, Ray Wood, Roston Barnum and the driver, all ranging in age from fourteen to sixteen, with the exception of Epperson.

There was a bottle of brandy in the car when they started out, one of the girls told the officers, and each of the group had one drink, she stated.

When they stopped at Sunset, Epperson got out of the car and went inside, returning a few mo-

(Continued on Page Six)

# Driver Of

(Continued from Page One)

ments later smelling strongly of liquor, and intimating he had had "a couple of drinks." They proceeded out the highway to Midway where they turned around and started back.

Epperson, according to the girl, decided to "show you how fast this car will go" and pressing his foot on the throttle got the car up to 75 miles an hour.

"WE ALL PLEADED with him to slow down and told him he was inviting a wreck, but he wouldn't listen," she said.

They were pleading with him when he turned out to pass an oncoming car, and then swerved back too quickly, striking the rear of the car.

The force of the crash clipped the left rear wheel from the other car and blew a tire on the Buick. The high rate of speed at which the car was travelling rendered it unmanageable and it left the highway, turning over several times, and hurling all eight occupants into the air, one as far as 60 feet from the spot where the machine finally came to rest.

All eight occupants were rendered unconscious from the wreck and it was thought at first all had been killed.

Members of the Boulder City high school basketball team, who were riding in the car which was struck by Epperson's machine,

went to their rescue and loaded them in a car to be brought in to the Las Vegas hospital.

MISS VERDA BARNUM, 15, daughter of M. J. Barnum of Westside and Roy Woods were the most seriously injured of the group. The young woman received numerous cuts and abrasions about the face, together with two fractured ribs and other body injuries. Woods' scalp was lacerated and he sustained three fractured ribs.

Other occupants of the car escaped with cuts and severe bruises.

Chief of Police Glen E. Bodell of Boulder City happened along the highway just after the accident occurred and made a personal investigation. He found the Buick a complete wreck with four pieces of the car body having been "flattened out" on the desert. That all occupants escaped death was considered a miracle.

Coach Duke Thayer of the Boulder City basketball team, which included Raphael Pearce, Murray Ellingsworth, Carl Wanger, Dale Bryant, and Stanley Withers, describing the accident said they were proceeding home about 10:20 reaching a point about a mile west of Midway, when another car with blinding lights approached. It edged over as it approached, Thayer said, and when a short distance away, going at "a terrific speed", it suddenly swerved toward their machine, clipping off the rear wheel.

YOUNG STANLEY, driving the Chevrolet, had great difficulty in

keeping his car from going over, although he was traveling at a slow rate of speed at the time.

As soon as he managed to get the car stopped all got out and went back to the point where the Buick had turned over.

OF THE EIGHT occupants of the car one was wandering about in a dazed condition in the darkness, while seven were unconscious. All were brought back to consciousness and loaded into cars heading for Las Vegas, to be taken to the hospital.

After six had been loaded into cars, the wandering youth said feebly that he knew there ought to be another somewhere. Wondering whether he was sure what he was talking about, or whether he was mumbling in drunken fashion, the others searched further, with him, and at last they found the eighth member of the mixed party, about 60 feet from the wreckage, unconscious.

THE WRECKED Buick was bought recently by Harry Williams, 916 Fifth street, shovel oiler for Six Companies Inc., and formerly belonged to Frank T. Crowe, construction superintendent on the dam project.

Mrs. Williams, interviewed by a Review-Journal reporter in Boulder City this morning said her son had not returned home yet, although when she learned of the accident she had visited him in a Las Vegas hotel. He was asleep at the time, she said, and she did not have an opportunity to talk

with him.

HE HAD BEEN forbidden to take the family car because of two other accidents, she said, and she was unaware that he had violated the edict until she was informed of the wreck.

The youth is employed on the grease rack at the upper port and was scheduled to go on shift at midnight last night.

Deputy Sheriffs Wm. E. Mott and Tony Martiletti were investigating all circumstances surrounding the wreck.