

Auto Hurtles New Bay Span, Water Probed

Number of Those
In Car Unknown
At Press Time

A car southbound on the Pensacola Bay Bridge careened across the median strip and crashed through the guard railing into the bay between the new and old bridges Friday night shortly before 11.

A section of the aluminum guard rail was hurled some 250 feet south and east, landing with a clang on the old bridge.

The car disappeared beneath the waves.

The car went through the railing about halfway down the big

BULLETIN

The car was located by rescuers shortly after midnight. Its door was open and there were no bodies inside.

However, the machine was a Buick registered to Evelyn S. Wilder of Sarasota and it carried a Duval County tag, Sheriff Bill Davis reported.

"hump" in the new bridge, south of the intracoastal canal crossing.

At midnight Florida Highway patrolmen and Escambia Search and Rescue unit personnel were attempting to locate the sunken vehicle. There was no possibility at that time of identifying the car or learning even the number of passengers.

A fisherman on the old bridge

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One Drowns And Another Nearly Dies

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to safety by two passing fishermen, he told McGovern.

The fishermen left the scene just as police arrived saying they "had to catch a fishing boat and would be at sea for a week." They were unidentified.

On the scene during rescue operations were a Sherman Field helicopter, a Coast Guard unit, members of the Escambia search and rescue squadron, and members of the sheriff's department and Florida Highway Patrol.

A Coast Guardsman, BM-3 H. E. Moore, used a life raft from the helicopter to row out into the lagoon to locate the body. BM-1 W. C. Johnson aided Moore.

The rescue unit boat carried Mitchell to the Rod and Reel Club in Warrington where an ambulance picked him up.

Surviving Mitchell are his parents, Mr. and Mrs. James A. Mitchell of Warrington; his grandmothers, Mrs. Martha Mitchell of Pensacola and Mrs. Kate Rettig of Gulfport, Miss., and other relatives.

He was a member of St. John's Catholic Church in Warrington.

Funeral arrangements will be announced by Fisher-Pou Funeral Service.