

Body Recovered as Auto Plunges Off Span

Center Strip Hit

Car Careens Into Railing, Drops Into Bay

By WILLIAM PRIME

An old model car carried at least one person to death early this morning when it struck the center strip of Pensacola Bay Bridge and then careened through the railing about a mile east of the center of the span.

Skin divers from the Escambia Search and Rescue Unit recovered the body of Willy Fountain, Negro, of 1505 N. Hayne St.

Divers were preparing at mid-morning to go back to the 20-foot depth of the water to search for other possible victims.

The Search and Rescue workers said there was a possibility that two more persons were in the car when it went through the bridge rail, but Miss Dot Proper, who had been following Fountain's vehicle, told The Pensacola News she believed there had been just one person in the car.

It was the third fatal accident on the Pensacola Bay Bridge within the last year.

Max Altman of 101 Fairpoint Dr., Casablanca, notified Florida Highway Patrol Radio Dispatcher Jimmy Williams at 5:37 a.m., that he had seen a car go out of control and plunge off the south side of the three-mile long bridge.

Altman, traveling toward Pensacola, said he saw the car strike the center strip and swing back across the two east-bound lanes of traffic, crash through the rail and plummet into the water some 35 feet below.

Skid marks at the scene indicated that a car had traveled 165 feet on the median, 95 more feet on the pavement and then had taken out 35 feet of the railing along with a utility pole.

The car was found 165 feet from where it left the bridge.

A foreman for the Noonan Construction Co., William Biggs, arrived at the scene only a short time after the accident and he and two other Noonan employees, Curtis Watson and Paul Barnett, brought a crane to the scene and had the car out of the water within 10 minutes.

The Escambia Search and Rescue Unit was called at 5:45 a.m., and was at the scene by 6.

The body of Fountain was (Turn to BODY, Page 2A)

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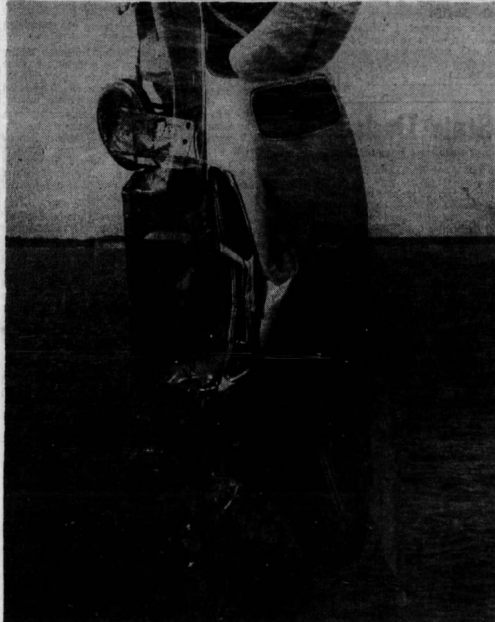
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DEATH CAR IS LIFTED FROM THE WATER OFF BAY BRIDGE
... at least one person died in car's plunge from span

Bombers Driven Off

Paratroops Hit Jungle

HOLLANDIA, West New Guinea, (AP) — Four Indonesian transport planes supported by two Mitchell bombers dropped 40 or more paratroops and supplies into West New Guinea at dawn today to reinforce encircled Indonesian guerrillas, the Dutch reported.

A communique said the bombers were driven off—apparently by naval guns—but that two C47 transport planes succeeded in dropping at least 40 paratroops into the jungle south of the village of Fakfak, in westernmost New Guinea.



(News Photo by Irs Brock)

FIRST RUN

By Kennedy

Marines Ordered To Thailand Area

Defense of Asia Is Aim, Kennedy Advises Solons

WASHINGTON, (AP) — President Kennedy was reported to have told congressional leaders today that a force of U. S. Marines will begin landing in Thailand within a matter of hours.

The President was understood to have told the bipartisan group in a 45-minute meeting that the primary purpose is to help defend Thailand against the Red threat from neighboring Laos.

Informants said he stressed that his primary policy still is to get a peaceful settlement in Laos itself.

The main thrust of his diplomacy at the moment, officials said, is to get the cease-fire restored in that Southeast Asian nation and revive negotiations for a coalition government.

Charles A. Halleck of Indiana, House Republican leader, said after the White House conference that the situation in Southeast Asia is very difficult.

As to the nature of the discussion with the President, he would only say there were no commitments asked and none given.

The U.S. and Thai governments, it was learned, have fully agreed on the landing of a Marine combat detachment of about half the

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Kennedy today ordered 1,500 U. S. Marines into Thailand.

The chief executive announced his action in a statement which said that:

"These forces are to help insure the territorial integrity of this peaceful country."

The statement mentioned only the dispatch of "additional elements of the U. S. military forces, both ground and air."

An administration official said

Inside News

How Far Will U.S. Go in Asian Crisis?

How deeply is the United States committed in Southeast Asia? And how much further will the U. S. government go in defending the vital area? UPI Foreign News Analyst Phil Neussom explores the questions in an interpretative article ... 5A

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For Nam Tha Push

Royal Units Regrouping

VIENTIANE, Laos, (UPI) — American military sources said today that royal Laotian government forces are regrouping in northwestern Laos for a push toward the rebel-captured town of Nam Tha.

There was no word on whether the government troops have made actual contact with the pre-Communist rebels.

There has been no report of fighting since before the weekend when Laotian soldiers poured across the Kemon River into Thailand in advance of the rebel drive.

Aerial observations showed the rebels still had not occupied the

College Head

Williams Is Elected

Body Found As Car Zips Off Bridge

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE)

brought to the surface by skin divers at 6:10 a.m.

E. E. McGovern, unit director, said that Fountain's body was found by the divers under the hood of the car. The divers later returned to the water to fasten cables from the crane to the vehicle.

At least 15 boats were called to Pensacola Bay to aid in the search. One of the boats found the spare tire from the car about a half mile south of the bridge, floating toward the bay entrance at Ft. McRae.

Personel on the USS Antietam was ordered to vantage points to scan the waters of the bay as the ship sailed this morning for the Gulf of Mexico.

Skin divers said they found one door of the car open at the point where the vehicle rested in five feet of mud at the botton of the bay.

Divers were scheduled to make a search and, if unsuccessful, McGovern said dragging operations would be started at the crash scene.

Fountain was sighted by the first arrivals at the scene, but sank as they watched helplessly from the bridge.

Officers said it was possible that Fountain had come to the surface and then had sunk to the bottom. He was recognized as he floated on the water and begged for help.

The search was hampered by a brisk wind that carried a current southward on the surface while the tide at the same time was moving in the opposite direction.

The car was owned by Mary F. Montgomery, Fountain's landlady, who also lived at 1505 N. Hayne St.