

From Escambia Bay

Pair Rescued By Helicopter

Two persons were rescued from the waters of Escambia Bay at 9 p.m., Sunday by a helicopter crew from Sherman Field.

Taken to the Naval Air Station hospital for a check and then released were James F. Parslow, 36, of 203 Aster St., and Louella Stokes, 20, no address obtained at the hospital.

Parslow's boat had been found earlier by the Escambia Search and Rescue Unit. The search group's director, E. E. McGovern, said his unit was called out at 7:50 p.m., and affected the rescue 70 minutes.

The man and woman were found floating in the water by the helicopter crew using landing lights to illuminate the bay. Members of the crew were Lt. Cmdr. A. E. Fulmer, Lt. L. L. Drake and AD-3 B. C. Carawan.

The man and woman were reported incoherent when first picked up and were not interviewed by the rescue team. No reason could be obtained as to how they had become separated from the boat.

The search for Parslow was started by the Escambia County Search and Rescue Unit when Cecil Harris of the Escambia Trestle Fishing Camp became alarmed for the man's safety when he failed to return to the camp.

Harris said that Parslow and his brother, Ed, had launched the boat earlier in the day at the fishing camp and had returned about noon with the starter off the motor. Harris said he was told that the starter had broken and that the brothers had walked in on the railroad tracks after tying the boat to the trestle.

Harris said he fixed the starter and the two returned. Ed Par-

slow, Harris said, stayed at the trestle to fish and the other Parslow left in the boat. Harris said he did not know where the woman had come from and reported that she was not with the men at the fishing camp.

The fishing camp operator said that Ed Parslow came back to the camp on foot about 6 p.m., and Harris dispatched Bob Nash, who lives at the camp, in a boat to search for the missing boat. No trace was found by Nash and he returned only to be sent back out again by Harris with Ed Parslow. The search again proved futile, Harris said, and he summoned assistance.

A later search turned up the boat adrift with the life preservers missing. There was no water in the boat when found, said Harris. He could offer no explanation as to how the pair got in the water.

A second search by the search and rescue team was carried on simultaneously with the hunt for the man and woman, McGovern said.

The second hunt started when unidentified visitors to the area near Navaree reported an out-of-town visitor with them had walked off into the water and had not returned.

The search was called off when the man re-appeared several miles down the beach. McGovern said he had swum along the coast line but had failed to tell his companions where he was going.

Twenty-seven boats, a helicopter and 60 men took part in the search for the man and woman while 22 more boats with 35 men and a helicopter participated in the Navarre hunt.