

Truman Eugene Adkins

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Summers County Youth Dies of Wreck Injuries

HINTON, May 22 – Unauthorized high school senior week paid off late last night near Pearisburg, Va., when one Hinton youth was killed and five more injured in an automobile wreck.

Truman Eugene Adkins, 22, died at 3:45a.m. today in the Giles Memorial Hospital at Pearisburg from injuries received in the wreck.

Driver of the car was Margaret Lilly, 17, a senior at Hinton High School. She and one of the passengers, Tommy Joe Hellems, 19, were released from the hospital this morning with only minor injuries.

Three remain in the hospital in “satisfactory” condition. Ruby Allen, 17, is listed in more serious condition than the other two, Barbara Cook, 18, and Harry Bryson, 20. Medical authorities at the hospital said late today that Miss Allen was “Doing as well as could be expected, but she was still very uncomfortable.” They added that she may have suffered a pelvic injury.

The accident occurred near Mountain Lake in Giles County on the road toward Maybrook, Va. The auto apparently was crossing a bridge over Sinking Creek when the back end of the car hit the bridge causing the driver to lose control of the vehicle. Estimated speed of the car was 45 miles per hour. The group had been on a senior trip. However, they were reported to have been out of convoy, which is against school rules.

Adkins was pulled out from under the rear springs. The back half of the car was torn off and both rear doors were torn loose, a spokesman said. Those riding in the rear seat received the brunt of the collision while those in the front seat received only minor injuries.

The victim, Adkins, was a graduate of Hinton High School with the class of 1955. He played football and made All Coalfield Conference one year in basketball.

Since graduation, he acted as an official for many of the athletic events throughout the community. At the time of his death, he was employed by the West Virginia Black Rock Co. of Hinton.

He was a member of the First Baptist Church.

Survivors include his father, Basil Adkins of Hinton; mother, Mrs. Forest Smith of Meadow Creek; two half-sisters, one half-brother, his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Pearl Adkins of Third Avenue, with whom he made is home.

The body was returned to the Ronald Meadows Funeral Parlors and will be removed to the home on Thursday.

Funeral arrangements are in complete.