

Three die in plane crash near Cedar Breaks

rescue efforts evacuate three survivors



EVACUATE INJURED. David Watson, one of the injured in airplane crash east of Cedar City is taken from Air Force helicopter on lawn of Valley

View Medical Center. Watson was one of three survivors of crash Sunday afternoon.

Three men, on location with a television firm in Los Angeles, Calif. were killed early this week in a small plane crash in Ashdown Gorge, in the mouth of Cedar Breaks National Monument.

Three survived the grueling crash which occurred sometime Sunday afternoon, and were rescued near noon Wednesday after the wreckage had been spotted from the air.

Killed were John Bury, approximately 42, the pilot; Vance McLean, in his 50's and Charles Stardmore, in his 20's. Taken out by helicopter to the Valley View Medical Center for treatment of injuries and exposure were Bob McCord, David Watson and Ozzie Simons, all in their 20's.

The men were on location with Madison Productions, Inc. at Kanab in the filming of a film series for the Death Valley Days Television series.

Sunday the six men were on their way out to see some of the scenery in the southern Utah area. They had planned to fly over Bryce Canyon, Zion Canyon, Grand Canyon and the Monument Valley areas.

When they failed to return Sunday night, air search operations were organized and began Monday. Approximately 12 aircraft of the Civil Air Patrol, under the command of Major Don Shockey of Salt Lake City, worked out of the Cedar City airport and approximately 14 units were participating working out of Kanab.

The wreckage was discovered early Wednesday morning by Robert Bradshaw and Bob Sigfreid, both of Cedar City. At that point efforts began to evacuate the survivors of the wreckage.

A helicopter was flown in from Nellis Air Force Base to help in the evacuation and another military helicopter that was in the area Wednesday was also pressed into service for the operation.

Dr. Brown, Cedar City Physician was flown into the area and he administered emergency treatment to two of the survivors at the crash site and loaded them on litters. They were then taken over extremely rugged terrain to an area where they could be picked up by the helicopter.

The third survivor had left the crash site at approximately 4 a.m. Tuesday to try to find his way for help. That was David Watson, he had wandered from the wreckage and was spotted at midmorning Wednesday approximately

three miles from the wreckage.

Watson was brought in to the Valley View Medical Center first for treatment.

He indicated that he had attempted to walk, but had fallen into the river three times and found the terrain unnegotiable under his physical condition.

Ground parties reached the wreckage just prior to noon Wednesday, and the victims were brought out.

Participating in the operation were all law enforcement units of the area as well as members of the Iron County Sheriff's Jeep Patrol, who made up a major part of the ground party going into the rugged area.