

MV mishaps claim 3 lives

TWIN FALLS — Three names have been added to the 1973 Magic Valley traffic death toll with the deaths of two Twin Falls County youths and a New Plymouth woman killed near Rupert.

Dead are Carl Blackwood, 18, Filer, and Mark Heaps, 18, Buhl, employes of Green Giant Canning Co. in Buhl, and Estella June Tankersley, 66, New Plymouth.

Mrs. Tankersley's husband, Charles Tankersley, 74, and a sister, Mrs. Effie Morgan, 67, Ceres, Calif., were injured in the accident.

The two Twin Falls County youths had been unconscious and in critical condition since being involved in a rural intersection accident Tuesday five miles south and one mile east of Buhl.

Twin Falls County Coroner Cloyce Edwards said both died of massive head and chest injuries. Blackwood, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Clinton Blackwood, Filer, died at 6:45 p.m. Friday and Heaps, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Wallace D. Heaps, Buhl, died Buhl, died at 7:23 p.m.

The vehicle in which they were traveling collided with one operated by John Reynolds, 31, Buhl. He is in good condition at Magic Valley Memorial Hospital.

Mrs. Tankersley died Friday night when she was thrown from the vehicle her husband was driving on State Highway 24 three miles south of Rupert. The accident occurred about 7:20 p.m.

State Patrolman DeLon Jones said the car was traveling north when it was hit by a vehicle driven by Mrs. Deborah Whittaker, 22, Rupert. They said she was pulling onto the highway from a cafe parking lot. The Tankersley vehicle left the highway and overturned once, going into a borrow pit. Mrs. Tankersley was pronounced dead at the scene.

The driver and Mrs. Morgan, were taken to Minidoka Memorial Hospital where they were in fair condition Saturday.

Mrs. Whittaker was not injured. Citations are pending completion of the investigation, Jones said.

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