

CAR GOES OFF BROKEN DIKE; 2 DROWNED

Mrs. Harry Dimmick, Small
Son Succumb At Break
Near Burlington

ROAD NOT BARRICADED

Husband, Exhausted As Efforts
Under Water Fail, Nar-
rowly Escapes

Tragedy brought indirectly by the high waters of the Skagit River took the lives of a young mother and her three-year-old son early Tuesday night when the automobile in which they were riding slowly vaulted over the edge of the broken dike-road between Burlington and Sedro-Woolley and buried itself in about fifteen feet of water.

The victims were Mrs. Harry Dimmick and her son Perry. The husband, who was driving the car, managed to escape alive after he had made fruitless attempts to rescue the other members of the family.

Mrs. Dimmick, who was 21 years old, was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. R. R. Shelley, well known Mount Vernon residents. She and her husband had been living on a farm two and one-half miles southwest of Clear Lake. The family was on its way to visit at the Sherwood home in Burlington at the time of the accident.

Unfamiliar with Washout

Dimmick stated that he was unfamiliar with the location of recent washout and that the highway was not blocked off. "I saw no lights at all, as we approached the crevass," he stated, "but I did note a sawhorse which partially obstructed the road. My wife remarked, 'There's been a little washout.'"

A few moments later the black gap appeared, Dimmick stated. He saw it at a distance of about ten feet and immediately set his brakes, but it was too late.

Dimmick kicked open the door of the submerged car and tried to arouse his wife, but he could not. He believed that she had been knocked unconscious by the fall. He then attempted to find the baby who was riding in the back seat of the coach model car. Unable to locate the child, he tried to pull his wife through the small hole but became exhausted and had to come to the surface for air. He immediately called for help.

Resuscitation Fails

The car was brought to the surface by a wrecker approximately 45 minutes after the accident and lung motors were put in action immediately by the Mount Vernon fire department, which had been called to the scene. The bodies had been in the water too long to make resuscitation possible.

Lloyd Smalley, who works for the Carnation Company, and Roy Skogmo, who resides near the dike break, were witnesses to the accident.

Funeral services for Mrs. Dimmick and the baby will be held from the Aaron Light funeral chapel in Mount Vernon Friday afternoon at two o'clock.