



EMERGENCY WORKERS lift Henry L. Miller of Fayetteville and Holden Beach to a waiting ambulance after he and his wife spent an hour pinned inside their truck as rescuers worked to free them. STAFF PHOTO BY SUSAN USHER

COUPLE PINNED IN TRUCK ESCAPED INJURY

Delco Man County's Third Highway Fatality

A Fayetteville couple that owns a vacation home near Holden Beach escaped a collision with a logging truck Thursday morning shaken and bruised only, while Sunday night a Delco man became the third person killed on Brunswick County roadways so far this year.

Henry Lofton Miller, and his wife, Doris, were southbound on U.S. 17 about 9 a.m. Thursday in their 1990 Chevrolet pickup when Miller slowed and signaled his intent to turn left into Bill's Camper Sales.

Looking in his rear view mirror, Miller realized that the logging truck approaching from the rear was coming too fast to stop. He attempted to accelerate to get out of the way.

Before he could clear the roadway the log truck struck Miller's truck in the rear, spinning the pickup around onto the right shoulder of the road, where it landed straddling the ditch, facing the opposite direction. The log truck continued sliding off-the-highway and overturned on its right side against the pickup, spilling a trailer-load of long pine logs on top of the pickup.

The Millers, conscious and alert, were pinned inside the upright vehicle for an hour as emergency workers cut the roof of the cab open using the Jaws of Life. While the cab of the truck was buried under the cascade of logs, it was not crushed like the rest of the truck.

"Something was holding the roof of the cab up other than that truck," said Waccamaw emergency volunteer Ron Johnston. "When we cut the lid off the truck, they sat right up.

Everything went real well; everything fell into place. It was like something on 911." Among the units responding were Shallotte and Coastline volunteer rescue squads, North Myrtle Beach Emergency Medical Service (EMS), Waccamaw Fire and Rescue, Calabash Volunteer EMS and Brunswick EMS, and Sunset Beach and Calabash firefighters.



THE DRIVER of this 1983 Chevrolet truck was uninjured Saturday after his vehicle ran off the road and turned over in this canal off Stone Chimney Road. STAFF PHOTO BY BRENDA MOORE

"They're really very lucky to be alive," said Mark Gore, chief of Shallotte Volunteer Rescue Squad.

Gore said workers removed most of the logs by hand, took a chain saw and cut away the rest of the logs on top of the cab, then cut the cab roof open.

While rescuers worked quietly and steadily, the Millers waited. "We were surprised they remained as calm as they did," said Johnston.

First to be rescued from the cab was Ho Chi Mhen, the Millers' Chinese pug.

The Millers and McIntyre were treated and released from The Brunswick Hospital.

N.C. Highway Patrol Trooper J.H. Kerr charged log truck driver Steffonza McIntyre, 24, of Currie with failure to reduce speed to avoid a collision. McIntyre was driving a truck registered to Kirby Daughtry of Rocky Point.

Nathan Douglas Dale, 22, of Delco was killed in a single-car accident that occurred 8.7 miles west of Leland on Mt. Misery Road.

He was the third driver to be killed on Brunswick County road-

ways this year, according to the N.C. Highway Patrol office in Wilmington.

According to the report filed by Trooper B.C. Jones, Dale was traveling west on Mt. Misery Road at a high rate of speed around 9:50 p.m. when his 1988 Ford came around a curve, crossed the Hood's Creek Bridge and ran off the road on the left shoulder and struck a tree.

The front of the car, including the engine, was torn from the vehicle at impact, landing near the tree. The remainder of the vehicle passed the tree and the driver was thrown from the vehicle.

Dale was transported to The Brunswick Hospital at Supply. Damage to the car was estimated at \$5,000.

A Shallotte man remained in New Hanover Regional Medical Center Tuesday following a one-vehicle accident early Saturday 3.6 miles south of Shallotte.

Robert Eugene Causey, 32, of Shallotte, was in good condition, hospital spokesman Iris Baker said Tuesday morning.

Causey was traveling north on

Village Point Road about 1:30 a.m. Saturday when his 1990 GMC truck skidded off the right side of the road and struck a tree, stopping at the point of impact, according to the report filed by Trooper B.L. Wilkes.

Causey was pinned inside the cab of the truck, and emergency responders worked for one and a half hours to cut open the cab and free him using the Jaws of Life. He was transported to The Brunswick Hospital with serious, incapacitating injuries and later transferred to New Hanover Regional Medical Center.

Wilkes charged Causey with exceeding a safe speed. Damage to the truck was estimated at \$6,000.

Later Saturday, a Supply man escaped injury when the 1983 Chevrolet truck he was driving ran off the road and overturned in a canal off Stone Chimney Road (S.R. 1115) seven miles east of Shallotte.

Roger Dean Maggard, 18, of Supply, told Trooper J.V. Dove that another vehicle ran him off the road in the 1 p.m. accident.

The truck received about \$1,000 in damages.

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