Annette Darby

Annette Darby of Irving died Wednesday, Nov. 17, in Irving. She was a member of First United Methodist Church of Irving, the Women’s Book Club and Mall Walkers. Her husband, John A. Darby, preceded her in death in 1998.

Survivors include her daughter and son-in-law, Joan and Roy Fisher of Irving; one grandchild; and one great-grandchild.

Services took place Friday, Nov. 19, at First United Methodist Church, with Rev. Mike Walker officiating. Burial is in Oak Grove Memorial Gardens. Arrangements were directed by Brown’s Memorial Funeral Home.
Diane A. Dampier

Diane A. Dampier, 56, a lifelong resident of Irving, died on Sunday, July 18, at a Dallas hospital.

Born Feb. 5, 1943, in Albuquerque, N.M., she was a homemaker and a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints/2nd Ward in Irving.

Survivors include her daughter, Althea Dampier of Irving; her son, Lee Dampier of Missouri; and her brother, Mike Duden of Lewisville.

Services took place on Wednesday, July 21, at Donnelly's Colonial Funeral Home Chapel, with Bishop Dennis Blackner officiating. Burial is in Bear Creek Cemetery in Euless.

7-22-99

11-7, pg 34
Dominic James Darring

Dominic James Darring, 10 days, of Irving died Tuesday, Nov. 2, at a Dallas hospital.

Born Oct. 22 in Irving, he was a member of Holy Family of Nazareth Catholic Church.

Survivors include his parents, Nancy Jean Darring and Robert Darring of Irving; his sisters, Melissa Darring of Irving and Christina Darring of Irving; his brothers, Michael Darring of Irving and Anthony Darring of Irving; and his grandparents, Dolores M. and Jack Darring of Irving.

Services took place Friday, Nov. 5, at Calvary Hill Cemetery's Mausoleum North Chapel in Dallas, with Father Robert McQuire officiating. Burial is in Calvary Hill Cemetery. Arrangements were directed by Donnelly's Colonial Funeral Home.
Arthur J. Darveau

Arthur J. Darveau, 85, of Irving died Wednesday, Sept. 15, at an Irving hospital.

Born May 21, 1914, in Lawrence, Mass., he retired in 1977 after more than 25 years as a surveyor for the city of Irving. A 46-year Irving resident, he was a member of St. Luke's Catholic Church.

Survivors include his daughters, Joyce Darveau of Irving and Melissa Bryan and her husband, Curtis, of Rowlett; two grandchildren; and several other relatives.

A memorial Mass took place Friday, Sept. 17, at St. Luke's Catholic Church, with Rev. J. Douglas Deshotel officiating. Arrangements were directed by Donnelly's Colonial Funeral Home. Memorials may be made to St. Luke's Catholic Church, 1015 Schulze Dr., Irving, TX 75060; or the American Heart Association, 1615 Stemmons Fwy., Dallas, TX 75207.

5 Sept. 19, 1999
IN, P3 34
Lewis Howard Davee

Lewis Howard Davee, 57, of Dallas died Sunday, June 20.

He was born March 21, 1942, in Roosevelt.

Survivors include his mother, Emma Davee of Auburn, Ga.; his children, Patricia Diane Obrecht Davee of San Antonio, April Dawn Davee of San Antonio, and Lesly Don Davee of San Antonio; his brother, Dennis Davee of Auburn, Ga.; his sister, Deanna Alexander of Sweeney; seven grandchildren; one great-grandchild; and several other relatives.

Graveside services were conducted Tuesday at Oak Grove Memorial Gardens.

Arrangements were coordinated by Brown's Memorial Funeral Home.
Lewis Howard Davee

Lewis Howard Davee, 57, of Dallas and a former Irving resident, died Sunday, June 20.

He was born March 21, 1942, in Roosevelt.

Survivors include his wife; Helen Rodgers Davee of Dallas; his mother, Emma Davee of Auburn, Ga.; his children, Patricia Diane Orrecht-Davee of San Antonio, April Dawn Davee of San Antonio, and Leslie Don Davee of San Antonio; his stepdaughters, Linda Sherman of Dallas and Brenda Carroll of Dallas; his brother, Dennis Davee of Auburn, Ga.; his sister, Deanna Alexander of Sweeney; seven grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; and several other relatives.

Graveside services were conducted Tuesday, June 22, at Oak Grove Memorial Gardens.

Arrangements were coordinated by Brown’s Memorial Funeral Home.
C. Bruce Davis

C. Bruce Davis, 53, died April 10. Born in Olaa, Hawaii, he served in the U.S. Army, stationed in Japan, and then joined American Airlines, where he was employed for the past 26 years.

Survivors include his brother, Robert H. Davis of Cheney, Wash.; sisters, Linda Macdonald of Auckland, New Zealand, and Susan Davis of Ter Aar, the Netherlands; aunts, Anita Brightman of Honolulu, Hawaii, and Ruth Westman of California; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Services will be conducted April 15 at the Dallas Fort Worth Regency West Tower, Skyline Room A. Instead of flowers, memorials may be made to the DFW Wings Sunshine Account, AAEFCU, 4200 Amon Carter Blvd., Fort Worth, Tx, 76155.
Dominic De La Cruz

Dominic "Nick" De La Cruz, 39, of Irving died Tuesday, May 4, in Irving.

Born May 2, 1960, in Houston, he was a self-employed caterer and a 1978 graduate of MacArthur High School. A member of Holy Family of Nazareth Catholic Church, he also belonged to the Texas Motorcycle Rights Association and the Texas Independent Touring Society.

Survivors include his wife, Vicki De La Cruz of Irving; his son, Damon Phariss of Irving; his daughter, Celena Laster of Irving; his parents; Daniel and Carmen De La Cruz of Irving; his sister, Monica De La Cruz Estes of Las Vegas, Nev.; his grandchildren, Christian and Colby Laster of Irving; a nephew, Christopher Estes of Las Vegas, Nev.; and several other relatives.

Rosary was said Thursday at Donnelly's Colonial Chapel, and services were conducted Friday at Holy Family of Nazareth Catholic Church with the Rev. Monsignor Jerome Duesman officiating. Burial is in Oak Grove Memorial Gardens.

Memorials may be made to the Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Children, 2222 Welborn St., P.O. Box 190567, Dallas, TX 75219-0567.
De La Cruz: Place 1 candidate dies days after election

Former council candidate dies

By RACHEL HORTON
News Staff Writer

Former City Council candidate Nick De La Cruz died Tuesday of an unknown cause.

De La Cruz, who was "interested in getting Hispanics and young people to vote," according to friend and campaign treasurer Mike Moore, celebrated his 39th birthday last Sunday.

The Dallas County Medical Examiner's office has not ruled on De La Cruz's cause of death, pending toxicology studies expected to take six to eight weeks, a medical examiner's office worker said Friday. But authorities told Vicki De La Cruz her husband apparently suffered a massive heart attack early Tuesday morning, according to James Dickens, who may have been the last person in contact with De La Cruz.

When she found her husband Tuesday afternoon, Mrs. De La Cruz called Dickens because she "did not know what to do" and Mr. De La Cruz "had left Dickens' phone number on a note on the refrigerator.

De La Cruz, who was a candidate for City Council Place 1 in the May 1 election, planned to help Dickens, a Place 1 runoff candidate, by taking a series of campaign photos for him that day, Dickens said.

"If I could say one thing about Nick, he had a contagious effect on people. He made people smile," Dickens said.

Dickens said De La Cruz also was "very concerned" about teen drug abuse.

De La Cruz, a self-employed caterer, lived in Irving 15 years. He graduated from MacArthur High School in 1978.

"He'll be missed," Moore said. "He was just an easygoing person, but he did care about Irving."

De La Cruz also sought a City Council post in 1997. He is remembered by other candidates and council members as bringing lightheartedness and laughter to political forums.

"It's not like (De La Cruz) didn't take it (the election campaign) serious, but he knew that there was more to life than that. I don't think he was stressed over the campaign," Moore said.

Dickens said De La Cruz was committed to working for Place 5 candidate Bob Romano, as well as for Dickens, in the upcoming runoff election.

"He was just a good guy. He would do anything for you," Moore said.

De La Cruz was an avid motorcycle rider and became involved in politics through his membership in the Texas Motorcycle Rights Association, Moore said. He was also a member of the Texas Independent Touring Society.

"I went to the funeral, but I was out of place, because I was in a car and not on a motorcycle," Dickens said.

Watching Nick De La Cruz, left, gazes at early-voting returns in the City Council election last Saturday with fellow Place 1 candidate Fran Bonilla. Bonilla qualified for a May 15 runoff election against James Dickens, whom De La Cruz endorsed prior to his death Tuesday.
Rosalinda G. Delacruz

Rosalinda G. Delacruz, 47, of Irving died Sunday, May 2, in Irving.

Born Oct. 26, 1951, in Nuevo Laredo, Mexico, she was a longtime employee at the Harvey Hotel D/FW.

Survivors include her sons, Julio Ceasar Delacruz of Irving; Daniel Corando Delacruz of Irving; Francisco Miguel Delacruz of Irving; Luis Alberto Delacruz of Irving, and Raymond Delacruz of Irving; her daughters, Maria Christina Smith of Irving, Rosa Noelia Reyes of Irving, and Marisol Delacruz; her brother, Fidencio Gomez of Houston; her sisters, Sanjuana Lopez of Houston, Guadalupe Oyerllvedes of Laredo, Dora Alicia Cuarenta of Laredo, Maria Adella Gomez of Irving, and Gloria Estella Mata of Grand Prairie; and her grandchildren, Joseph Aarron Smith, Philip Andrew Smith, and Mark Anthony Reyes.

Rosary was said Tuesday in the Chapel of Calvary Funeral Home. Liturgy of the Word was celebrated Wednesday in the Chapel of Calvary Funeral Home with the Rev. Jose Luis Azcona of St. Luke's Catholic Church officiating.
Alice R. deJonge

Alice R. deJonge, 80, of Houston and a former Irving resident died Monday, Oct. 25.

A member of Irving North Christian Church and Grace Community Church in Houston, she was retired after working for 20 years as a nurses' aide. She was preceded in death by her husband, Earl deJonge, and her sons, Earl deJonge Jr. and Charles deJonge.

Survivors include her daughters and sons-in-law, Earleen and Jack Brown and Rita and Charles Cobb; seven grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; and several other relatives.

Services took place Wednesday, Oct. 27, at Grace Community Church, with Pastor Rick Minett officiating. Burial is in Restwood Memorial Park in Lake Jackson. Arrangements were directed by Memorial Oaks Funeral Home in Houston.

Memorials may be made to the Houston Hospice, 8811 Gaylord, Suite 100, Houston, TX 77024-2923.

Oct. 28, 1999

W, Pg 3A
Vitoriana DeLeon

Vitoriana DeLeon, 81, died Saturday, March 6, in Irving.
Born July 14, 1917, in Seralvo, Nuevo Leon, Mexico, she was preceded in death by her husband, Cesarion DeLeon in January 1961.
Survivors include: sons, Arturo Deleon of Brownsville and Francisco DeLeon of Brownsville; daughters, Flora Mireles of Brownsville, Enriqueta Guerra of Littlefield, Juanita Castillo of Irving, and Blanca Estela DeLeon of Irving; 37 grandchildren; and several great-grandchildren.
A burial mass was said Monday, March 8 at St. Luke's Catholic Church in Irving. Burial is in Oak Grove Memorial Gardens.
Arrangements were coordinated by Calvary Funeral Home.
Irene C. Dennington

Irene C. Dennington, 80, of Irving died Friday, Feb. 19. She was born March 25, 1918, in Fort Worth.

Survivors include: children, Charles Dennington of Irving, Jimmy Dennington of Lewisville, Roy Dennington of Grand Prairie, Betty Dennington of Irving, Mary Ann Krause of Irving; sisters, Odell Carson of Arlington and Opal of Richardson; 22 grandchildren; 29 great-grandchildren; and two great-great-grandchildren.

Funeral services will be conducted at 10 a.m. Monday, Feb. 22, at Brown’s Memorial Funeral Home Chapel with the Rev. Randy Rudisell officiating. Burial will be in Oak Grove Memorial Gardens.
H.E. "Ozzie" Dennis

H.E. "Ozzie" Dennis, 65, a lifelong Irving resident, died on Friday, July 16, in Irving.

Born July 10, 1934, in Dallas, he was retired after working for 30 years as a forklift operator for Yellow Freight Lines in Dallas.

Survivors include his sister, Helen Lee of Irving; his sons, David Dennis of Grapevine, Bill Dennis of Grapevine, Claud Webb of Irving and George Webb of Irving; and several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Graveside services took place on Tuesday, July 20, at Parker Cemetery in Irving, with Rev. Ken Parlin officiating. Services were directed by Donnelly's Colonial Funeral Home.

7-22-99

11-1, Pg 34
Maudie Dennis

Maudie Dennis, 91, of Irving died Thursday, March 18, at an Irving nursing home.

Born Jan. 17, 1908, in Colleyville to Isaac W. and Dolly Tatum Waggoner, she was a retired hospital nurse's aid and was of the Seventh-Day Adventist faith.

Survivors include: daughter, Helen Lee of Irving; son, Earl Dennis Jr. of Irving; sisters, Ruby Milican of Irving, and Laura Lambert of Bedford; brother, Floyd Waggoner of Weatherford; seven grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Funeral services will be conducted at 2 p.m. today at Donnelly's Colonial Funeral Home Chapel with the Rev. Bob Roberts officiating. Burial will be in Parker Cemetery in Euless.
Joe C. Dias

Joe C. Dias, 80, of Irving died April 25.

Born Aug. 1, 1918, in New Bedford, Mass., he retired from the U.S. Army in 1960 as a SFC with The Airborne Rangers. He also was a member of the Euless Church of Christ, the VFW, and the American Massage and Therapy Association.

Survivors include his wife, Edna Myrle Dias of Irving; his daughters, Lucille Eggenberger of Pasadena, and Karen Carter of Grand Prairie; his son, Michael Dias; five grandchildren; and several other relatives.

Services were conducted Wednesday, April 28, at Brown's Memorial Funeral Home Chapel with Robert Musgrove officiating. Graveside services with military honors were conducted Friday, April 30, at Jacksonville Memorial Gardens in Jacksonville, Fla.
Willie J. Dobson

Willie J. "Bill" Dobson, 64, died Thursday, April 8.

Born Oct. 30, 1934, in Brumson, S.C., to Sally and Medicus Brumson, he served in the U.S. Air Force. He moved to Dallas with Braniff Airlines, where he worked in the instrument and electrical division. After 15 years, he joined International Airlines as a maintenance controller until his death.

Survivors include his wife, LaNelle Dobson of Irving; son James Darran Dobson of Irving; daughter, Shanna Dobson of Irving; sisters, Barbara Harrison of Franklin, N.C., Helen Barnes of Lexington, S.C., Tiny Parker of Cottageville, S.C., and Hattie Mae Barnes of Early Branch, S.C.; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Funeral services will be conducted at 2 p.m. Monday, April 12, at Brown’s Memorial Funeral Home Chapel with the Rev. Gerald W. Ford and the Rev. Owen Goff officiating. Burial will be in Oak Grove Memorial Garden. The family will receive friends Sunday from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the funeral home.
Rachel Helen Dolansky

Rachel Helen Dolansky, infant, died Saturday, March 20, at Children's Medical Center of Dallas.

She was born March 18 in Grand Prairie to Frank E. and Teresa Buckreis Dolansky.

Survivors include her parents of Irving; brother, Jonathan Dolansky of Irving; grandfather, Robert Buckreis of New York; and grandmother, Barbara Dolansky of New York.

Graveside services will be conducted at 3 p.m. today at Oak Grove Memorial Gardens with the Rev. Andrew McQuitty officiating.

The family requests memorials be made to: Family Birthing Center in Grand Prairie; Irving Bible Church, 2435 Kinwest Parkway, Irving, TX 75063; or Children’s Medical Center of Dallas, P.O. Box 65473, Dallas, TX 75265-9868.
Mieczyslaw Domalewski

Mieczyslaw "Matt" Domalewski, 74, of Irving died Monday, March 15.

Born Nov. 16, 1924, in Karaczun, Poland, he was a member of St. Luke's Catholic Church.

Survivors include his wife, Jane Domalewski of Irving; his sons, Stanley Domalewski of Cocoa Beach, Fla., Steven Domalewski of Battle Creek, Mich., and Michael Domalewski of Arlington; and four grandchildren.

A funeral mass was conducted Wednesday, March 17, at St. Luke's Catholic Church. Burial is in Oak Grove Memorial Gardens.

Arrangements were coordinated by Brown's Memorial Funeral Home.
James Dooley

James "Tom" Dooley of Irving died Monday, Oct. 4.

He was a member of Village Baptist Church in Irving.

Survivors include his daughters, Nancy Dooley Riley of Irving and Wanda Dooley Lopez of Celina; his brother, Jesse Dooley of Irving; his sister, Ellen Reaves of Warsaw, Mo.; 12 grandchildren; 18 great-grandchildren; and several other relatives.

Services will take place at 1 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 7, at Brown's Memorial Funeral Home Chapel, with Rev. Mark Jenkins officiating. Burial will follow in Oak Grove Memorial Gardens.
Marjory Mae Dorrell

Marjory Mae Dorrell, 78, of Irving died Wednesday, Dec. 30. Born in Delta, Ohio, she moved to Irving from Daytona Beach, Fla., in 1997. She was a retired retail sales manager.

Survivors include: daughter, Jeanne Harris of Irving; sisters, Louise Derwoyed of Greenwood, S.C., and Elsie Butts of California; four grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild.

Funeral services were conducted Monday, Jan. 4, at Abbey Funeral Home Chapel in Tallahassee, Fla. Burial was in Tallahassee Memory Gardens.
James Shannon Doss

James Shannon "Jim" Doss, 77, of Irving died Monday, Aug. 9, in Irving.

Born Dec. 29, 1921, he worked in the aircraft industry for most of his career, retiring after 30 years with Menasco Manufacturing of Euless, for which he served as a general machinist, tool planner and group leader. He was a member of Plymouth Park Baptist Church. He was preceded in death by his brother, Bryan Doss, and his sisters Beatrice Seely Blanche Hum and Jo Gleghorn.

Survivors include his wife of 51 years, Ruby Doss of Irving; his son and daughter-in-law, Michael and Suzy Doss of Coppell; his sisters Beaulah Vinson and Doris Boyd; two grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; and several other relatives.

Services took place Wednesday, Aug. 11, at Restland Wildwood Chapel in Dallas. Burial is in Restland Memorial Park. Arrangements are under the direction of Restland Funeral Home and Cemetery in Dallas.

Memorials will be made to the Alzheimer's Association or Texas Advocates for Nursing Home Residents.
Arnold S. Dowma

Arnold S. Dowma, 87, of Irving died on Monday, July 19.
Born July 15, 1912, in Alton, Iowa, he worked for Sutherland Lumber Company in Omaha, Neb., and St. Joseph, Mo., until his retirement in 1977. He was a member of St. Stephen's Presbyterian Church in Irving. In St. Joseph, he was a member of the Charity Lodge No. 31, AF & AM and the Moose Lodge.

Survivors include his wife of 65 years, Hermina Dowma of Irving; his daughters, Donna Morriss of Irving and Lorrie McOuat of Hilton Head, S.C.; his brother, Vernon Dowma of Marshall, Minn.; his sister, Julia Degroot of Alton, Iowa; five grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

A private memorial service took place at St. Stephen’s Presbyterian Church. Arrangements were directed by Donnelly’s Colonial Funeral Home.

Memorials may be made to the Irving Chapter of Students Against Drunk Driving.

7-22-99
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Genevieve Alice Drews

Genevieve Alice Drews, 75, of Irving died Friday, March 19.
She was born March 4, 1924, in Chicago, Ill.
Survivors include her son, David Drews of Irving.
Graveside services were conducted Wednesday, March 24 at Oak Grove Memorial Gardens.
Arrangements were coordinated by Brown's Memorial Funeral Home.
Justin Levi Dugan

Justin Levi Dugan, 8, of Cresson died Monday, Dec. 6, on Highway 171 in Parker County.

Born Aug. 15, 1991, in Cleburne, he was a student at Travis Elementary School in Weatherford.


Graveside services took place Saturday, Dec. 11, at Cresson Cemetery. Arrangements were directed by Martin’s Funeral Home in Granbury.

12-12-99

Mr. P. 21
James R. Dunaway

James R. Dunaway, 75, of Irving died Tuesday, Nov. 16.

A veteran of the U.S. Air Force 3rd Emergency Rescue Squadron during World War II, he worked for 15 years for LTV in Grand Prairie. He was preceded in death by his son Lance Bratton.

Survivors include his wife, Ann Dunaway of Irving; his daughter, Sharon Dale of Carrollton; his son and daughter-in-law, Dwayne and Dawn Bratton of Farmers Branch; his sister, Norma Costlow of Plantersville, Miss.; four grandchildren, including Melissa Worthen of Irving; and one great-granddaughter, Megan Fortune of Irving.

Services will take place Friday, Nov. 19, at Brown's Memorial Funeral Home Chapel, with Chaplain Bruce Wade officiating. Burial will follow in Oak Grove Memorial Gardens. The family will receive friends from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 19, at Brown's Memorial Funeral Home.
Loretta Dunlap

Loretta Dunlap, 78, of Irving died Saturday, March 20, at her home.

Born Sept. 16, 1920, in Blair, Okla., to Raby and Ruby Gallimore Smith, she married Billy Dunlap on April 6, 1962, in Amarillo. She was a homemaker and was a member of the Baptist faith.

Survivors include her husband; son, Michael Purcell of Dallas; daughters, Laquita Prather of Elk City, Okla., Vicki Bradley of Georgetown, and Lesa Holden; six grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted Tuesday, March 23, at Donnelly’s Colonial Funeral Home Chapel with the Rev. Ken Parlin officiating. Burial is in Oak Grove Memorial Gardens.
Robert Earl Dunn

Robert Earl Dunn, 58, formerly of Irving, died Thursday, April 8.
Born April 19, 1940, he retired from Minyards Food Stores after 32 years.
Survivors include his wife, Geneva; sons, Troy and Lloyd; daughter, Paula; four sisters; two brothers; and three grandchildren.
A memorial service will be announced at a later date.
Robert Earl Dunn

Robert Earl Dunn of Irving died Thursday, April 8, in Clarksdale, Miss.
Survivors include his wife, Geneva Dunn; daughter, Paula Swain; and sons, Troy Dunn and Lloyd Dunn.
Memorial services will be conducted Friday, April 23, at Brown's Memorial Funeral Home Chapel.
Gloria Joan Dupree

Gloria Joan Dupree, 64, of Irving died Nov. 2 in Irving.
Born Oct. 17, 1935, in Indianapolis, she was a member of the Order of Eastern Star No. 777, Irving Chapter. She was preceded in death by her daughter Yvonne Carol Stelcz; her granddaughter Melisha Tawn Arrambidez; and her brother Thomas Minor.
Survivors include her son, Robert Steve Dupree Sr. of Mansfield; her daughters Valenia Jo Gill of Lake Dallas, Lisa Coursey of Arlington and Chere Lynn Spring of Roane; her mother, Beatrice Mandrell of Indianapolis; her brothers Mike Minor of Indianapolis and Kenneth Minor of Indianapolis; nine grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

A memorial service took place Saturday, Nov. 6, at Chism & Smith Funeral Home.
Fiery SH-183 accident kills two, snarls traffic
Overpass may need overhaul

By STEPHEN TERRY
News Staff Writer

A black cloud hovered above the Texas Stadium area Saturday, signaling the spot where a pickup truck jumped a guardrail and collided with a gasoline tanker in mid-air, killing two motorists and disrupting traffic for more than 12 hours.

Police identified one of the crash victims as Irving resident Jose "Freddy" Duran, 31, the driver of the pickup. Police had not released the name of the second victim as of Tuesday afternoon because next of kin had not been notified. No other injuries were reported, according to police.

Police said Duran, driving a 1999 Chevrolet Silverado, was speeding on westbound State Highway 183 at about 11 a.m. when he lost control of his car and jumped the guardrail. The Chevrolet then sailed above an embankment that separates the eastbound and westbound lanes and hit the eastbound...
Crash: Two motorists killed in fiery accident

Continued from Page 1A

tanker, which contained 10,000 gallons of gasoline.

"Under normal conditions, there is not a problem," said David Tull, Irving police public information officer. "There is a very slight jog in the roadway. The road goes over Spur 482 and comes back down."

Both vehicles landed several yards from the collision. The tanker landed under an overpass connecting the service road of eastbound SH-183 to Spur 482.

Witnesses said the tanker burst into flames immediately, creating a black haze in the area.

Irving resident Travis Adams was working several hundred yards from the accident at First Row Tickets when he heard an explosion.

"There was fire on the service road and everywhere," said Adams. "The tanker was engulfed in flames immediately. It was totally black outside. The smoke was so bad you could not see the tanker. I have never seen a truck so mangled. You couldn't tell whether it was a car or a truck."

Irving firefighters needed several hours to control the blaze.

"We had 21 members of the department on the scene," said EMS Capt. Cody Newman. "Water was initially used for confinement. Then, foam was used when we were able to bring in enough units. It took about 3 hours to extinguish."

Newman said the fire's location forced the bridge from the SH-183 service road to Spur 482 to be closed.

"(The bridge) absorbed a lot of the heat," Newman said. "The bridge, being an overpass, is designed to carry a specific amount of weight. The fire was cooking moisture out of the concrete causing it to lose its strength. The cracks in the concrete could cause it to crumble with weight. The heat will do the same thing to the roadway."

Texas Department of Transportation officials said Tuesday they are unsure if the entire bridge will have to be replaced.

Larry Tegmeyer, TxDOT Northwest Dallas County Area engineer, said such major damage to a bridge is rare.

"This is the second time in 10 years a tanker truck caught fire under a bridge and damaged it extensively," he said. "It appears to us that the fire-damaged area will have to be totally removed. The question is, how do we salvage the rest of the structure?"

One of the priorities is to keep traffic on SH-183 flowing."

Tull said motorists can still access Spur 482 from SH-183.

Witnesses knew immediately this was not an ordinary accident. Mark Patel, manager of the Days Inn on SH-183 across from Texas Stadium, said he has not seen an accident cause such a commotion in his seven years at the motel.

"People parked their cars on the highway and started running to the incident," Patel said. "This was not like a movie; it was a real thing. They were running like they were going to save them. Police had to wiggle through the traffic to get to the accident. I looked out of this window, and I could see a big ball of fire. Every three minutes, there would be a big boom and you would see another ball of fire."

Patel said emergency units arrived within minutes of the initial blast.

"The fire was confined and not allowed to spread anywhere," Newman said. "You are concerned with anyone getting into the area because of the fire. We were also concerned with preventing a runoff of chemicals because of the EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) requirements. If it (a chemical) gets into the ground, it has to be taken up. Traffic was also a concern."

Police closed SH-183 for several hours. Authorities routed eastbound traffic from SH-183 to Peters and Grauwyler roads while emergency personnel were working at the scene.

"(SH-183) east and west stayed closed from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.," Tull said. "The westbound lanes reopened at about 4:35 p.m. It wasn't until sometime after 10 p.m. before the east lanes were opened. Investigators are doing a follow-up."

Tull said police could not confirm Duran was owned the Chevrolet Silverado he was driving. Police said the tanker was owned by United Petroleum Transports.

Saturday's fatality accident was Irving's 16th this year, resulting in 19 deaths, according to police. Last year, 15 fatality accidents resulted in 16 deaths.
AFTERMATH
OF A
TRAGEDY

The site of Saturday's fiery truck-tanker accident that killed two people was still a hotbed of activity early this week. Right, construction crews repair the guardrail along State Highway 183 that was damaged when an out-of-control pickup truck veered from the westbound side of the highway to the eastbound side. Bottom left, the barrels and directional arrows signify that the overpass from the SH-183 service road to Spur 482 is closed because of damage caused by the fire that erupted when the tanker—carrying 10,000 gallons of gasoline—landed and exploded. The bridge will have to be replaced. Bottom right, city of Irving traffic department workers Dave Belguard, left, and Greg Rutledge rewire a conduit on Tuesday to provide temporary power to a street light, the wiring of which was damaged during the fire that resulted from the accident. Traffic was disrupted on Saturday for about 12 hours, and the damaged overpass may have to be completely reconstructed.
Aftermath of a Tragedy
Oct. 28, 1999, IN, P. 6A

Photos by Ron Baselice / News Staff