

RONA, DON S.

?-July 9, 1933

As near as can be figured by the officers investigating the tragedy, an accident occurred at one-thirty Sunday afternoon that resulted in the death of Don S, Rona and Max Alvarez as the car in which they were riding hit the edge of the bridge across No. 1 ditch twelve miles southwest of Wheatland and turned over into about four feet of water, drowning both of them. Charley Salazar, a passenger in the car, was also thrown into the ditch but succeeded in getting out and was later discovered wandering about near the scene of the accident.

Someone crossing the ditch bridge noticed the overturned car and notified Sheriff Wickam who went to Coroner Payne's home and picked him up and together the two of them went out to investigate. Entering the water, Mr. Payne found the body of Don Rona pinned beneath the car. He was taken out and placed in Sheriff Wickam's car and brought to Wheatland. Chief Jordan was notified and the aid of the firemen asked to search the stream for the missing man. One group of firemen went to a point about a mile and a half below the bridge and started wading up stream while another group started down stream. Shortly after the first group had entered the water, they discovered the body coming toward them. It was removed and brought to town and placed in the Lyla Watson Funeral Home to await funeral arrangements.

Don S. Rona, owner and driver of the car, had been in this section only a few weeks and was a laborer in the beet fields. He was 52 years of age and is survived by a wife and two children. The family resided in Ft. Collins and arrived Monday to attend the funeral. Max Alvarez, 53 years old, had lived here about three years. He also leaves a wife and several children and some grandchildren.

The three men are reported as having been drinking heavily and before leaving the home of a friend a few minutes before refused to listen to the pleadings of others not to drive in such a condition.

Short funeral services were held at 2:30 Tuesday afternoon with burial made in the Wheatland cemetery. The Lyla Watson Funeral Home in charge.