

WEATHER

WIREGRASS AREA — Tonight: Partly cloudy and mild. Tomorrow: Partly cloudy with 20 to 40 per cent possibility of sunshine. More weather on Pages One and Two.

THE DOTHAN EAGLE

"Let There Be Light."—Genesis 1:3.

FIRST \$800

1¢ heat, 4¢ by Evistude, extras. See this and other good buys in today's Want Ads, under 4 BOSTS, MOTORS, SUPPLIES.

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DOTHAN, ALABAMA, MONDAY AFTERNOON, MAY 13, 1963

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SIGN KILLS DINER — An Indiana-bound for Florida was crushed to death last night when a small, violent storm blew down a 2,200-pound sign onto the restaurant portion of the 231 Truck Stop at Midland City. In top photo, a heavy crane lifts the sign off

the building to aid rescue efforts. In lower photo, members of the Dothan and Ozark fire departments and the Highway Patrol lift the dead man from the ruins. Two other persons were injured seriously enough to require hospitalization. (Eagle Photos)

Sign Wrecks Building, Indiana Tourist Dies

By VIC BURRETT

A tourist stopping for supper, was killed and his wife and another person were injured when a 2,200-pound sign crashed through the roof of the 231 Truck Stop near Midland City last night about 4:30 o'clock. The sign was toppled by a small but intense thunderstorm.

Eight other persons in the restaurant portion of the truck stop escaped harm or suffered only slight injuries.

The dead man was identified as Marshall D. Brooks, 35, an Anderson, Ind., realtor. He and his wife, Etta, 61, were on their way to Vero Beach, Fla., to meet their son and his wife for a family vacation. The son, who had preceded them from his home in Bloomington, Ind., was in Dothan today assisting his mother.

Pinched In Wreckage

Mrs. Brooks was pinned in the wreckage of the building about half an hour. She was admitted to Southeast General Hospital for treatment of bruises and for observation.

Also hurt was L. D. Giddens, 38, a Tampa hotel house salesman. He was admitted to Southeast General for treatment of face and leg abrasions and observation.

The conditions of both were described today as satisfactory by hospital attendants.

Escaping from the building were Mrs. Edward Morgan, an employee in the restaurant, and her two daughters, Shirley Ann, 18, and Carolyn, 12. Doyle Hart, 18, of 124 Airport Rd.; Jimmy Maddox, about 18, son of A. L. Maddox, Dothan, operator of the service station portion of the truck stop.

Also escaping were Bobby Bell of Enterprise, and a companion identified only as Buddy, also of

Enterprise, and the Negro cook in the restaurant.

The service station manager and his two helpers were not harmed. No damage was done to the station.

The six by 42-foot Neon sign, was anchored to the building's roof with a six by eight-foot concrete block pier.

At Municipal Airport in Dothan about seven miles away, Federal Aviation Agency observers noted winds up to about 25 miles an hour during the height of the storm.

Junior Pippin, an attendant at the Marshall Service Station across U. S. Hwy. 211 from the truck stop, told of motorists describing how their cars had been battered by the wind.

"One fellow told us the wind turned his car completely around," Pippin said.

This was the second time the sign has been felled in recent

weeks. On April 6 when heavy winds and rains swept the area, it was blown down on top of the service station section of the truck stop. No one was injured then.

It had been in place only about a week before last night's storm. Paradoxically last night's death and injuries were preceded by another injury, that of a sign company worker, Ben Barnett, 29, of 902 S. Woodland Dr. His right leg and his nose were broken when winds blew the sign on him while it was being put back from the April 6 blow.

Doyle Tart, a driver for Dudley Wilkinson Produce Co. of Clayton, and Mrs. Morgan, gave accounts of the tragedy.

Tart said that he was sitting in a corner booth with Jimmy Maddox. Mrs. Morgan said her two girls were sitting with Maddox also.

The Brooks were sitting at a table near the door.

Tart said he heard a cracking and before anyone could move the roof fell in. He escaped with only a skinned arm and knuckles by lying down in the booth. Maddox suffered a bruised arm when a beam fell.

The two men finished breaking out a plate glass window near them, crawled from the building, and helped others trapped in the ruins.

Mrs. Morgan said she was waiting on Brooks and had just turned to get some salad dressing "when it started cracking."

"I was standing in front of the man who got killed," she said.

"Bobby and Buddy grabbed me and pulled me down a little hall towards the restrooms. Then the boys held up the pieces of roof and I crawled out over the counter and the ice cream box."

Mrs. Brooks was trapped in the booth with her husband. Rescuers

(Times-TV Page 2, Col. 1)



Etta Ruth Brooks, as Administratrix of the Estate of Marshall D. Brooks, and Larue Giddens v. Danzey Oil, Cities Service et al. \$38,000.00 settlement of death and injury claims in the U. S. District Court in Dothan, Alabama. Claims arose out of an accident on May 12, 1963 when strong winds blew down a 2,200-pound sign which crashed through the roof of a truck stop restaurant near Midland City, killing one person and injuring another who had stopped for supper. Plaintiffs were represented by Cunningham & Bounds, Mobile, Alabama.