

17 die, 1 seriously hurt in Kennon road mishap. Published in Baguio Midland Courier Vol. LII, No. 38 issued on September 19, 1999. The article is located on pages 1 and 20. This copy was retrieved from the Cordillera/Northern Luzon Archives of the University of the Philippines Baguio Library.

One still unidentified

17 die, 1 seriously hurt in Kennon road mishap

Seventeen persons died while only one survived of the worst road accidents along Kennon road when rocks smashed a Toyota Hi-Ace Van at Camp 3, Tuba, Benguet killing 16 of its passengers and a bystander.

Rescuers endured last Monday's heavy rains from morning until around 7:40 in the evening where the bodies of the victims were recovered.

The fatalities in the incident were identified as Lyrne Dumawal, 18, from Mangatarem, Pangasinan; Sherwin Velasquez, 23, a resident of Pinget, Baguio City who was the driver of the ill-fated van bearing license plate number AHC-515; Eduardson P. Bogayong, 24, from Santa Barbara, Pangasinan; Marichu Munoz, 34, from Dagupan City; Angelito S. Gabriel, 25, from Calasiao, Pangasinan.

(Continued on page 20)

17 die, . . .
(from page 1)

sinan;

Arlene Domongan, from Tarlac, Tarlac; Gary M. Ce-rezo, 21, from Malasiqui, Pangasinan; and an engineering student of SLU; Edmundo Moyano, 17, from Mangaldan, Pangasinan and a student of the Baguio Colleges Foundation (BCF); Angelbertha Ceralde Castillo, 31, a field promotion manager of the Biohealth International; Ana Liza Cabatbat, a student of the University of the Philippines College Baguio (UPCB); Jason C. Rocas, an engineering student of SLU; Michelle Dutong, 20, from Mangatarem, Pangasinan and a student of the University of Baguio (UB) and Helen Licadio, 23, who is the secretary of the Rotary Club of Baguio.

The lone survivor was identified as a certain Joana Leonarda de Vera, 17, a resident of Dagupan City and a student of UPCB is presently confined at the Baguio General Hospital and Medical Center (BGHMC) recuperating from fractures in the different parts of her body as a result of the heavy impact of rocks that buried the vehicle they were riding on.

However, one of the bodies of the victims recovered from the accident site still remain unidentified. He was wearing a pair of nylon short pant, had a short hair and a mustache and was estimated to be about 5 feet and four inches in height. His body still lies at the Baguio Funeral Homes awaiting identification.

Tuba police authorities are still investigating whether the unidentified cadaver is just a bystander or a passenger of the commuter van.

De vera was allegedly saved by her friend Moyano, who embraced her when he saw boulders of rocks falling and rushing down from the mountain side of the van.

Personal belongings of the victims which were recovered from the accident site was turned over to the Tuba police station and the Bureau of Fire Protection.

The recent rockslide at Kennon Road which resulted to the death of 17 individuals covered an area about 15 meters by 20 meters and that clearing operations in the area had already been completed. — Dexter A. See