

H&N - July/August 1977  
Volunteer Loses Life in Truck Accident  
Two injured when tanker overturns

RANLO, N.C. - A volunteer fireman was killed and his son injured when their truck overturned while on the way to a fire [on July 12, 1977]. Officials say the boy's presence in the emergency vehicle was an apparent violation of departmental policy. Killed was 42-year-old Billy Ray Fulbright of 50-A Ranlo Ave. A truck driver for Burlington Industries in Cramerton, Fulbright had been with the Ranlo Volunteer Fire Department since its organization six years ago. Fulbright's son, 10-year-old Billy Ray Jr., received rib injuries in the accident.

Also injured in the crash was the truck driver, Bobby Whisnant, 18, of 10 Maple Ave., in Ranlo. According to reports from Ranlo Fire Chief Dean Stillwell and State Highway Patrol, Whisnant was traveling north on Lewis Road when the truck's tires went off the road on a curve and sank in soft sand, causing the water load to shift and the truck to overturn. The elder Fulbright was thrown from the vehicle and it rolled over onto him. He died at the scene. "He's really going to be missed," said Chief Stillwell. "We all loved him."

Stillwell said regulations of the Ranlo Fire and Rescue departments prohibit anyone under the age of 16 from riding in an emergency vehicle. He said an investigation is underway to determine why the boy was aboard the truck. The 1,000-gallon pumper, which had been converted from a 26-year-old oil tanker, was en route to a fire when it overturned. The Highway Patrol said there would be no charges in connection with the truck accident. The truck was traveling at an estimated 25 miles per hour in a 55 mph zone when it over turned. Author Bo Perkins.

<http://www.legeros.com/ralwake/photos/weblog/pivot/entry.php?id=6256>

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