

Russell Rokahr, Juvenile Officer, Dies In Crash

Russell R. Rokahr, 59, County probation officer since 1941, a former county deputy sheriff and for many years a joint operator with his late father in one of El Paso's oldest bootmaking establishments, was killed almost instantly Saturday when a car which he was driving overturned 15 miles east of Fort Stockton.

Mrs. Rokahr, who was in the car with her husband, received a sprained knee and scalp injuries. She was treated in a Fort Stockton hospital and later was released.



RUSSELL R. ROKAHR

One of four young El Paso boys whom Mr. Rokahr was returning from the Boys State Detention Home in Gatesville, Texas, was injured slightly. Three of the boys were Juan Terrazas, 4017 Cardova Street; Francisco Pablano, 3119 Frutas Street, and Bernardo Rivera, Lower Valley. A fourth youth in the party was not identified.

REAR TIRE BLOWS OUT

Mr. Rokahr's skull was fractured when a rear tire of the new county car he was driving blew out on Highway 67 (Fort Stockton-San Angelo highway) and the car turned over in a ditch. He lived but a few seconds after the accident, Mrs. Rokahr and the boys told highway police. The car apparently was being driven at a high rate of speed when the tire went out, throwing the vehicle into a double turnover and hurtling it into a ditch.

Roadside travelers stopped and offered first aid to Mrs. Rokahr and the frightened and shocked youths and then rushed into Fort Stockton and sent an ambulance to the scene of the wreck.

Mr. Rokahr had been dead for some time when the ambulance reached the scene.

The four juveniles remained with Mrs. Rokahr. The juveniles were turned over to Fort Stockton authorities and were to be brought to El Paso Saturday night or Sunday.

Mr. Rokahr was born and reared in El Paso. He served as a deputy sheriff and jailer during the Chris Fox administration, and in April, 1941 resigned to accept appointment as the county's probation officer. He took an intense interest in recreation for underprivileged youth and advocated more and better playgrounds for youngsters to prevent them from leaning toward criminal activities.

For many years he was associated with his father, Charles Rokahr, a pioneer El Paso bootmaker, in operation of a bootmaking and shoe repair shop.

He is survived by his widow; a son, Russell, Jr., and three daughters. Mrs. Homan Johnson of Abilene, Mrs. Merle McMillan and Mrs. Eloise Sullenberger, of El Paso.

Funeral arrangements were pending with Hagedorn-Harding Funeral Home.