

The costliest traffic crash so far this year occurred near Martinsville. (ROLL FILM)

Five persons died instantly when a head-on collision at the crest of a hill on U.S. 58 seven miles east of Martinsville turned two cars into a mass of twisted steel in a matter of seconds. (SHOW FILM)

The two survivors of the wreck---15-year old James E. Grant and 20-year old Charles Hairston of Martinsville---are still on the critical list with multiple injuries.

They were among four Martinsville negroes who occupied one of the cars involved in the wreck. The other occupants died instantly. So did all three occupants of the second car--a North Carolina minister, his wife, and his mother. Witnesses said the cars came together with such force that one was crushed almost flat and the other sailed some 50 feet through the air before it finally hit an embankment and turned over. It was one of the most violent two-car crashes in the state state police can recall in years.

(back to Ed)