

Eastland Man Fatally Shot Near Gorman

EASTLAND (RNS) — Funeral for Billy Wayne Reid, 31, will be at 3 p.m. Saturday in the Gorman First Baptist Church. Mr. Reid was fatally wounded about 7 p.m. Thursday on the ranch of his father, W. E. (Bill) Reid about 10 miles north of Gorman.

Justice of the Peace C. E. Owen said Friday a ruling on the cause of death will be made Saturday.

Mr. Reid was born Aug. 16 1929, at Gorman and lived in Eastland County all his life. He was a farmer and rancher.

He married Hazel Allean Cox Aug. 16, 1947, and was a member of the Eastland First Baptist Church. Burial will be in Alameda Cemetery under the direction of Higginbotham Funeral Home of Gorman.

In addition to his wife, Mr. Reid is survived by a son, Michael Wayne, and daughter, Shirley Jean, both of the home; his parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. E. (Bill) Reid; and two sisters, Mrs. Helen Joyce Crawley of Odessa and Mrs. LaFray Hart of Baytown.

Pallbearers will be Glenn and R.D. Hart, Roy Tackett, Charles Underwood, Wayne Brown and Billy E. Simpson.

With Reid at the time he was shot were two cousins, Jeffry Earthman, 13, and Tommy Green, 18, both of Dickens. The three had gone to Leon River to run a trotline, officials said.

The younger boys were carrying .22 caliber rifles and a shot was fired at some object. Officials said the bullet presumably ricocheted but it was not known who fired the shot.

Justice Owen of Eastland, Sheriff Lee Horn and E. L. Dennis, Gorman constable, made a preliminary investigation Thursday night. Owen, Horn and County Attorney Earl Conner Jr. returned to the ranch Friday for further investigation.