

John Rockefeller III killed

N.Y. car crash kills oil heir

From Tribune Wire Services

MT. PLEASANT, N.Y.—John D. Rockefeller III, eldest of the five sons of John D. Rockefeller Jr., was killed Monday night in an automobile accident in the town of Mt. Pleasant, a Westchester County community about 25 miles north of New York City. He was 72.

Accounts of the accident varied. Authorities said a car driven by David Low, 16, of Briarcliff, swerved into the wrong lane and crashed into Rockefeller's auto on N.Y. Hwy. 448. The Rockefeller vehicle then sideswiped a third car.

Other reports indicated the Low vehicle sideswiped the third auto before veering into the oncoming lane and colliding with the Rockefeller auto.

THE ACCIDENT occurred around 5 p.m. Chicago time one mile north of the Pocantico Hills estate of the Rockefeller family, the police said.

Rockefeller and Low were pronounced dead at the scene. The bodies were taken to the Westchester County morgue in Valhalla.

The driver of the Rockefeller car—his 38-year-old secretary, Monica Lesko of Westwood, N.J.—and the third motorist—Mrs. Grace Lawton, 57, of North Tarrytown—were injured.

The two women were reported in stable condition at Phelps Memorial Hospital.

Rockefeller, 72, probably the least well-

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known of the five grandsons of oil magnate John D. Rockefeller Sr., left politics and business to his younger brothers and spent much of his life in philanthropy, support of the arts, population control projects, and Asian problems.

FAMILY MEMBERS all over the world were notified of the death. Rockefeller's wife, Blanchette, was at the estate. Their only son, West Virginia Gov. John D. "Jay" Rockefeller IV, was returning home from Washington. The governor's wife, Sharon, is the daughter of Sen. Percy [R., Ill.].

Funeral arrangements were incomplete.

Rockefeller was a brother of former Vice President Nelson Rockefeller, Chase Manhattan Bank Chairman David Rockefeller, and conservationist-financier Laurance Rockefeller.

Another brother, Winthrop, who was governor of Arkansas, died of cancer in 1973 at the age of 60. A sister, Abby Rockefeller Mouze, died in 1976 at the age of 73.

JOHN D. Rockefeller III was in the public eye as founder and chairman of the Population Council and the Asia Society and as a delegate to international conferences on Asia.

He helped to create and headed the Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts in New York City and was a trustee of the American Museum of Natural History. He served for many years as chairman of the Colonial Williamsburg restoration.

When the Rockefeller family gave the United Nations \$8.5 million in 1947 to purchase the land on which the present UN Building stands, it was John D. Rockefeller III who presented the check to UN officials on behalf of his father.

BORN IN NEW YORK CITY on March 21, 1906, he attended the Browning School in New York and the Loomis School in Windsor, Conn. He graduated from Princeton University with a B.S. in economics in 1929 and the vote of his classmates as "most likely to succeed." In 1932, he married Blanchette Ferry Hooker. In addition to "Jay," they had

three daughters—Sandra, Mrs. Hope Spencer, and Alida—and four grandchildren.

Rockefeller was named a trustee in 1931 of the Rockefeller Foundation, established by his grandfather in 1913 "to promote the well-being of mankind throughout the world."

After service with the Navy in World War II and a stint as a special assistant to the undersecretary of the Navy, he returned to his philanthropic activities.

HE SERVED as chairman of the Rockefeller Foundation from 1952 to 1971, when he became honorary chairman. He also was a trustee of the Rockefeller Brothers Fund and the Rockefeller Family Fund.

Concerned over the student revolts of the late 1960s, Rockefeller set up the Task Force on Youth to seek ways of starting a dialog between young people and the Establishment.

In speeches and meetings with business leaders he urged that men in power "revitalize" existing systems to better meet the needs and goals of the young.

Rockefeller's concern with population problems began in the 1930s, and the Population Council was set up in 1952 to correlate information on population for policymakers.

IN 1966 AND 1967, Rockefeller obtained the signatures of 30 world leaders, including the late President Lyndon Johnson, on a Statement on Population which was presented to the United Nations in connection with Human Rights Day.

In an address to a Senate hearing in Washington on population, Rockefeller said: "No problem is more urgently important to the well-being of mankind than the limitation of population growth."

In 1951, Rockefeller was a consultant to the U.S. peace settlement mission in Japan and he also served as an adviser to the U.S. delegation at the Japanese peace treaty conference in San Francisco.

CONTINUING HIS interest in the Far East, he set up The Asia Society in 1956.