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Beattyville family struck by tragedies buries its two sons

Associated Press

BEATTYVILLE, Ky. — Tragedy has struck the Litten Fuller family for the second time in less than three months.

Funeral services for Fuller's two sons, killed in an accident last weekend, were held yesterday.

The retired coal miner's wife had died in the Beattyville fire of Sept. 24, while getting her hair styled for her daughter's wedding.

It was the second wedding for the daughter, who lost her first husband in the 1976 Scotia mine disaster.

Fuller's sons, John, 28, and James, 16, were buried yesterday at the family cemetery near Emmalena in Knott County, said Hindman Funeral Home officials.

The brothers were electrocuted Saturday as they and their father tried to put up a television antenna on a hill near the Fuller home.

The wind blew the antenna against a 7,200-volt power line, officials said, and John and James Fuller were pronounced dead at the scene.

Their father's leg and foot were burned, and he was treated at a Lexington hospital and released.

John Fuller, who lived in Perry County and was a foreman for Falcon Coal Co., is survived by his wife, Janice Brewer Fuller.

James Fuller was a student last year at Knott County Central High School.

The Fullers moved from Hindman to Beattyville during the summer.

Litten Fuller's son-in-law, Paul Sandlin, said Fuller "wanted to own a farm when he retired from the mines, and happened to find one he liked over here."

His wife Tressie was among six people killed Sept. 24 when a runaway gasoline truck crashed into a row of downtown Beattyville businesses, starting a fire that destroyed most of a city block.

Mrs. Fuller was getting her hair styled

for her daughter Emily's second wedding.

Emily's first husband died in March 1976, in the first of two explosions that killed 26 men in the Scotia Coal Co.'s No. 1 Black Mountain Mine in Letcher County.

"The Fullers have really experienced their share of tragedy," said a neighbor, Sam Spicer.

"Most families would break under this kind of pressure," said another friend. "They are good people — good strong people. I guess they'd have to be."