

Woman Survives Head-On Collision With Tractor-Trailer

A woman escaped serious injury after being involved in a head-on collision with a tractor trailer on Rt. 307 last Thursday morning.

Master Trooper C.A. Burgess described the woman's survival as "a miracle" and said it was only possible because she was wearing car safety belts.

Trooper Burgess reported that at about 8 a.m. Thursday morning, Cathy Ann Melvin, 31, was traveling to Richmond from Lynchburg on Rt. 307 about three-tenths of a mile east of Rt. 616. She was driving a 1988 Toyota Four-Runner station wagon owned by Emmanuel D. Pimental of Richmond.

Fell Asleep

Melvin fell asleep and drifted over the center line of Rt. 307 "striking a glancing blow on a 1983 Mac

Scott Harris, 36, of Appomattox.

The car continued in motion, recrossed the center line and collided head-on with a 1988 Peterbilt Tractor Trailer driven by Van H. Savage, 36, of Bedford. The truck was registered with Thompson Trucking of Concord.

The force of the head-on collision knocked the Toyota over the embankment on the east bound lane where it came to a stop.

Both Vehicles Totaled

The car's entire windshield was smashed and the front end was ripped, exposing a flattened engine block. The Peterbilt frame was crushed, with serious undercarriage damage and ruptures to the engine block and fuel line causing motor oil and diesel fuel spillage along the highway.

also scattered for about a 100 yard distance along the highway.

Trooper Burgess said both vehicles were totaled.

Melvin was trapped inside her vehicle and was treated and taken out by members of the Burkeville First Responder Team and the Burkeville Fire Department. The Nottoway County Emergency Squad also responded and took her to the hospital.

"She Would Be Dead"

Trooper Burgess reports Melvin suffered minor injuries with a possible broken left ankle. He said these minor injuries from such a collision were "due to the fact she was wearing a seatbelt. Without it she would be dead. It's a miracle she survived."

Trooper Burgess said Melvin will be charged with reckless driving. (CONTINUED ON PAGE 16)