



Elvis Presley, former wife Priscilla with daughter Lisa Marie in 1968

Presley fans killed by car

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP)—Hundreds keeping vigil outside Elvis Presley's mansion watched in horror early today as a car struck and killed two women, hours before the singer's funeral.

Police said the car was speeding and the driver had been drinking.

The women, and a third person who was injured, were standing in a median section of four-lane Elvis Presley Boulevard, while about 300 persons were gathered on the sidewalk across from Graceland Mansion.

Three women and one man were arrested several blocks away after the incident.

Police said the car was travelling at 55 miles per hour down the street, where the limit is 40 miles per hour.

The accident came on a day that was to have been for the family and the close friends of Elvis Presley, not for the clawing, clutching, adoring crowds.

As he wished it, the funeral today for the 42-year-old singer was to be conducted in private, in mid-afternoon, with prayer and eulogy in the mansion he called home and entombment near his mother, in a cemetery not far away.

The family had planned to allow the public to view Presley's body for two hours Wednesday. The time stretched to 3½ hours and there were still about 15,000 whose pilgrimage to see Presley a final time was in vain.

Sheriff Gene Barksdale estimated that 25,000 to 30,000 walked past the seamless copper coffin. The estimate may have been generous, but the lines continued without letup for the entire 3½ hours.

Presley was dressed in a cream-colored, almost white, suit with pale blue shirt and silver tie—Christmas presents from his father.

Presley's face showed the effects of the weight he gained in his later years.

So zealously did the family guard the private aspects of the day, that the names of those officiating at the service and most of those invited to attend were withheld.

Rex Humbard, a nationally known evangelist from Akron, Ohio, said he would officiate. Humbard had visited Presley at his Memphis home, known as Graceland Mansion.