

Two Wheatland men drowned Wednesday and one escaped when the boat in which they were fishing in a reservoir overturned.

The two victims were Arthur J. Roath, 84, a resident of Wheatland since 1900, and Robert M. Smith, 79, a resident of the Wheatland and Chugwater areas since 1923.

A third man in the boat, Fred Erickson, about 70, escaped by clinging to the overturned boat until help arrived.

Erickson said the three were fishing in Laramie reservoir No. 1 about eight miles southwest of Wheatland when Smith got a cramp and stood up.

Erickson clung to the boat and got the attention of Adam Deines who rescued him. The Wheatland fire department was called and recovered the two bodies with grappling hooks shortly before 6 p.m., about three hours after the accident.

Arthur Roath was born in Indiana July 20, 1869. He came to Platte county, Wyoming in 1889 and farmed here for many years. He is survived by the following children: Leonard Roath, Greta Korb and Ernest Roath of Wheatland; Vesta Roath and Marjorie Woods of Pablo, Oregon; Charles W. Roath of Creston, Mont.; Harley Roath of Forsythe, Mont.; Archie Roath of Kersey, Colo.; Fred Roath of Maryland; and Evelyn Utter of Newcastle, Colo.

Robert M. Smith was born in Clay City, Ill. November 14, 1871. He homesteaded in Chugwater in 1923. His survivors are Rolyn Smith, Edwin Smith and Veleta Moses of Glenwood, Calif.; Glenwood Smith, formerly of Longmont, Colo and now in Illinois, and Zella Farris of St. Louis, Mo.

Funeral arrangements for the 2 men are incomplete pending word from relatives.