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## Crash kills ex-state lawmaker

HERMOSILLO, Sonora (UPI) — A van carrying seven Colorado women to a vacation in Mexico overturned about 100 miles south of the border, killing three of the women and injuring two.

Among the dead was former state Rep. Virginia Sears, 74, of Greeley, who served three terms in the Colorado House before retiring in 1978.

Also killed in the crash late Wednesday were Doris Deffke and Marian McCarty, also of Greeley.

The two injured women are Helen West of Estes Park, who suffered a dislocated shoulder, and Charlotte Williamson of Greeley, who received internal injuries. Both were listed in fair condition Thursday at the hospital in Hermosillo.

Freida Nichol and Jane McMurren, also of Greeley, were not injured in the crash.

The seven women had flown to Tucson and had tried to make airplane connections to San Carlos, Mexico. But they couldn't catch a flight and rented a van in Tucson instead.

Deffke, who was driving, started to pull off the road near Hermosillo to change drivers, officials said. The van hit a bump or a hole in the road and went out of control, rolling over.

All the women were widows except McMurren, whose husband, Ted, is the owner-manager of Flatiron Paving in Greeley. West is a former resident of Greeley, where her husband was a geology profes-



NEWS FILE PHOTO

Virginia Sears  
Served 3 terms in House

sor at the University of Northern Colorado.

Sears, born June 20, 1906, in Denver, attended Colorado State Teachers College (now UNC) from 1924 to 1931. She was sales manager at radio station KFKA for 20 years.

She married Roy E. Sears in 1926. The couple had three sons, Roger, Larry and Jerry Sears.

During her legislative terms, Sears sponsored legislation to create the Conservation Trust Fund, which allocates money to cities and counties to buy land for parks and recreation, and a bill to revise school election and district college laws.

During her third term, Sears, known as Ginny to her friends, chaired the House Education Committee.

Memorial services for Sears will be at 2 p.m. Saturday at the First Congregational Church in Greeley.