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## Locals get \$3.4 million settlement

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A Wellton family has been awarded a \$3.4 million settlement for injuries sustained Feb. 26, 1989, in a crash with a motorhome on Interstate 8 at Telegraph Pass, according to one of the lawyers who represented them.

The settlement for James and Betty Holliday and their 9-year-old twin children, Kelly and Brian, was reached Monday, said Si Shultz, a lawyer with the Tucson law firm of Shultz and Rollins.

Shultz said the family took slightly more than half of the settlement in cash and opted to buy a structured annuity package with the rest. He said all told, the family should receive more than \$7 million

from the annuity over their life.

"It's been a long, hard struggle," Holliday told The Yuma Daily Sun this morning. He said he hasn't been able to work since he was hurt. "And at 56 years old, it's hard to retire."

Holliday said he was happy with the settlement because he knows his family will be taken care of for life. He said he also is happy with his attorney, Bruce Yancey of Yuma, who contacted Shultz and Rollins.

The settlement was reached with an insurance company that represented La Mesa RV Center, a California corporation that has a dealership east of Yuma, and A. Lee Snyder, a California resident.

Because the Hollidays live in Arizona and the defendants were in California, Shultz said the case was filed in U.S. District Court in

Phoenix. He explained filing such cases in federal court is allowed when the litigants are residents of different states.

The Hollidays were injured when the 1984 Pontiac they were in collided with a 34-foot motorhome driven by Snyder.

Shultz said Snyder was supposed to drive the motorhome from a recreational vehicle show at Southgate Mall to the La Mesa RV dealership east of Yuma.

However, he took a wrong turn and headed east on Interstate 8 out of Yuma, Shultz said. When he reached Telegraph Pass, Shultz said, Snyder realized he was heading in the wrong direction.

Shultz said Snyder pulled over into the emergency lane and started to make a U-turn. Snyder intended to turn around in the dirt median,

according to Shultz.

While the motorhome was turning, it was struck in the left rear by the eastbound Holliday car, Shultz said. The Hollidays were returning to Wellton after a shopping trip to Yuma.

Shultz said the children, who were in the back seat, sustained only minor injuries but the parents' injuries were severe. He said more surgery may be required to fix Mrs. Holliday's ankles.

The case was just about to go to trial when the settlement was reached, according to Shultz.

Holliday said he might buy a new mobile home but he plans to stay in Wellton area. He said he has lived in the area for 21 years and his wife has lived there for 30 years.