

# Vehicle Plunges Into River Friday



An elderly man and his wife escaped serious injury Friday afternoon when their car rolled down a steep embankment and into the Yadkin River in North Wilkesboro behind medical buildings in West Park.

Charles Lethcoe, 84, of Jonesville, driver of a gold Chevrolet Impala sedan, said he put his vehicle in drive, but was unable to get his foot on the brake. The vehicle rolled over a curb and down the steep riverbank and came to rest with the front end in the river.



Lethcoe and his wife, Kay, were helped out of the vehicle by emergency personnel. Wilkes Rescue Squad personnel and North Wilkesboro firemen and first responders carried them up the riverbank in a Stokes basket.

Lethcoe said he was uninjured, though his wife sustained a scrape to her arm. Both declined to be taken to Wilkes Regional Medical Center by Wilkes Emergency Medical Services.

North Wilkesboro Police Chief Joe Rankin and officers Jason Griffith and Allison Sheets also responded to the incident, which was reported around 3:50 p.m.