

## Gram Parsons dies in desert

The half-charred body of country-rock musician Gram Parsons was found in a burned casket by rangers at Joshua Tree National Monument in the California desert last Friday.

Parsons had been discovered dead two days earlier in a nearby motel, and his body had been missing since the day before when it was taken by unknown persons from L.A. International Airport.

Authorities are looking for a battered black hearse which campers in the area say was seen weaving across the road near where the funeral pyre was found.

Parsons, 27, had been living in Los Angeles since returning from London last year. He first arrived on the West Coast in 1967, leading a group called the International Submarine Band. He later joined the Byrds during their "Sweetheart of the Rodeo" period, and, with Byrd Chris Hillman, he subsequently formed the Flying Burrito Brothers, staying with them long enough to perform on their first two albums.

In 1970, he dropped out to take up with the Rolling Stones, with whom he traveled for a while before dropping out of sight. Since his return, he had recorded a solo

album which Warner-Reprise released this spring.

Cause of death has not been released, but people who knew Parsons presume it to have been due to an overdose. He was known to have been deeply involved with drugs, especially during his association with the Stones.

—Bill Wasserzieher