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Butler, Alabama 36904

Lawsuit settled for \$3.4 million

■ Massey Ferguson Tractor Co., wife of the late Kennon Doggett reach out-of-court agreement

By Tommy Campbell

MOBILE — An out of court settlement totaling more than \$3.4 million has been reached in connection with the 1989 death of a Choctaw County man who was crushed to death beneath a tractor.

The \$3,450,000 settlement was awarded last week to the wife of Robert Kennon Doggett after an agreement was reached between Mrs. Carolyn Giles Doggett and Massey Ferguson Tractor Company.

The case had been scheduled to go to trial in September, but was settled be-

tween the parties involved during a hearing.

Mr. Doggett, 47, was searching a pasture along James Creek on March 26, 1989 for a missing newborn calf. When part of the creek bank caved in, the tractor rolled over on top of him, pinning him underneath.

The lawsuit, which was filed in the Circuit Court of Mobile County was later transferred to U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Alabama. The suit, which only presents one side of the legal argument, alleged that the tractor manufacturer failed to install a

rollover protection system, as required by law, on the Massey Ferguson Model 270 tractor that Doggett was riding.

William Utsey, who along with Mobile attorney John T. Crowder represented Mrs. Doggett, said the tractor was manufactured in England in August 1985, and sold to Doggett by Chapman Tractor Company, of Waynesboro, Mississippi, in 1986.

According to Utsey, the American Society of Agricultural Engineers in March, 1985 passed legislation that required rollover protection systems to be installed as standard equipment on all

tractors. The machine which Doggett purchased had been manufactured in England and was sold without the safety system.

Doggett was a former collections manager and cashier at First National Bank of Butler, and Chief Deputy with the Choctaw County Sheriff's Department. At the time of his death, he served as Branch Manager of United Security Bank's Coffeenville office, and was Chairman of the Choctaw County Democratic Executive Committee. He was a Mason, a Shriner, and a Sergeant with the 156th Military Police Battalion.