

Bing Crosby injured in 25ft fall from stage

NEWS ON CAMERA

PASADENA,
Friday.

BING CROSBY fell 20 feet into an orchestra pit while taping a television special last night, suffering cuts and bruises.

The 72-year-old performer was rushed to Huntingdon Memorial Hospital in Pasadena and taken to an emergency ward.

Hospital spokesman Mr John McCarthy said today: "Mr Crosby is being kept under close observation."

"No bones have been broken, but he has several lacerations and heavy bruising. He has a bad cut on his forehead."

Mr McCarthy said doctors were concerned over the effect the fall might have on Crosby. Further tests would be carried out.

Crosby was concluding his performance, celebrating his 50th anniversary in show business, when the accident happened at the Ambassador Auditorium.

Observers said the singer had just said goodbye to the audience when he turned

around and fell into the orchestra section. He fell on top of two people, but it was not known if they were also injured.

The stage was exceptionally high because a special platform had been built to help him make his way through the back of the set.

Head cut

The witnesses said Crosby appeared to be bleeding from the head. The show's producer, Marty Pasetta, said he had injured his back and suffered a minor head cut "but was okay."

Members of the audience said that as Crosby lay injured he said he was not seriously hurt and joked that "This is part of the act," and "Well give it another try tomorrow night."

The singer's wife Kathryn rushed out of the wings to his side. She had appeared in the show with him, along with their three children—Nathaniel, Harry and Mary Frances—and many of Crosby's closest friends, including comedian Bob Hope.

Singer Pearl Bailey also ran up, and three doctors from the audience.

Before the celebration show began Kathryn Crosby said: "Bing is doing this show out of gratitude. He was terribly sick a couple of years ago and was supported by many many people."

"This is his way of saying thank you."



BEFORE the fall—Bing Crosby receives a "Crummy" Award—"For performers who don't win anything else"—from Bob Hope. Minutes later he fell into the orchestra pit.

AP by Wire