

Two Decatur Moose bowling team members killed Sunday in accident near Lafayette

Two members of a Decatur Moose lodge bowling team were killed and four others injured Sunday morning in a two-truck collision on U.S. highway 52, one mile south of Lafayette.

Dead on arrival at Home hospital, Lafayette, were Larry L. Worden, 31, 703 Schirmeyer street, Decatur, and Marvin L. Lautzenheiser, 28, Willshire, Ol, route 1.

The two men were passengers in a van-type truck operated by Robert G. Hoffman, 32, 223 North 11th street, Decatur. Hoffman and three other passengers in the truck were removed to the same hospital. The accident occurred at 7:35 a.m.

Worden's death was attributed to a skull fracture, while Lautzenheiser died of a skull fracture and crushed chest.

Hoffman received the least serious injuries, a a lacerated finger on the right hand, lacerations to the right thigh and contusions. He was treated for his injuries and was later released, returning to Decatur Sunday evening.

Most seriously injured of the other three men was Wilbur Lengerich, 56, Decatur route 4. Lengerich is listed in "serious" condition at Home hospital, where he is undergoing treatment for a fractured skull and multiple lacerations. He is being held in the hospital's intensive care unit.

Listed in "satisfactory" condition are Clarence Lengerich, 58, 1430 Master Drive, Decatur, and Frederick J. Eyanson, 36, 932 High street Decatur. Lengerich received a scalp laceration, abrasions, multiple contusions and complained of chest pains, while Eyanson suffered scalp lacerations and a fractured left hand.

According to investigating officers from the Lafayette post of the Indiana state police, the accident occurred when a wrecker, operated by James E. Lambert, 29, Louisville, Ky., ran into the left rear corner of the Hoffman truck, tearing off a large portion of the left rear corner of the vehicle's body.

Hoffman's truck was knocked off the right side of the road into a field. The van rolled over once, coming to rest on its wheels.

State police believe that most of the occupants of the Decatur vehicle were thrown from the wreckage.

Both vehicles were northbound on the four-lane highway at the time of the accident. Investigation of the crash is continuing. Indications are that Lambert feel asleep at the wheel of his truck prior to the accident. No charges have yet been filed against the Kentucky motorist.

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The six men had stayed at a motel, just one-half mile south of the accident scene and were headed into Lafayette to bowl at Star Lanes (where the state Moose bowling tourney was in progress) at 9 a.m. Tow other teams from the local lodge were in Lafayette to bowl in the same tourney and learned of the accident when they arrived at the lanes.

Hoffman, Wordon and Lautzenheiser had stayed at the motel earlier in the morning while the other three men had attended a 6 a.m. Catholic mass at a nearby church. After Eyanson and the two Lengerichs returned, the six men headed to Lafayette, apparently planning to eat breakfast before reporting in at the bowling alley for their scheduled match.

Hoffman returned to this city Sunday evening with member of the other Decatur teams. The Moose tournament is a several-week affair and other local teams had participated on earlier weekends and still other bowlers are scheduled to go next weekend.

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Worden Rites Wednesday; Funeral Thursday

Marvin Lee Lautzenheiser was born at Wren, O., Feb. 22, 1941, a son of John F. and Beulah Troutner-Lautzenheiser.

The accident victim, who resided with his parents in Willshire, O., route 1, was an employe of Automatic Sprinkler Co, at Monroe, and was a member of the Union United Methodist church and the Decatur Moose lodge.

Surviving are his parents; three sisters, Mrs. Rolland (Berneice) Wallace of Ohio City, O., route 2, Mrs. Robert (Beverly) Snyder of Olympia, Wash., and Mrs. Larry (Alice) Chrisman of Decatur; five brothers, Gerald Lautzenheiser of Monroe route 1, Fred and Ralph Lautzenheiser, both of Decatur, Ned Lautzenheiser of Rockford, O., route 2, and Bruce Lautzenheiser, who is serving with the U.S. Navy; and the paternal grandfather, Frank Lautzenheiser of Monroe. Two sisters and one brother are deceased.

Funeral services will be conducted at 2 p.m. Thursday at the Winteregg-Linn funeral home, with Rev. Hilar Custer and Rev. Gene Grimm officiating. Burial will be in the Tricker cemetery at Salem. Friends may call at the funeral home after 7 p.m. Tuesday until time of the services. The Moose lodge will hold memorial services at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday.

Contributed by Karin King