

Kokomo Morning Times, Kokomo, Indiana; July 5, 1966

4 DIE IN SINGLE HOOSIER CRASH

...Helen Burkhart, 55, Decatur, was killed Monday when her car was hit by another vehicle in an Adams county road intersection one mile southeast of Monroe. Police said the intersection was unmarked.

Contributed by Karin King

Helen M. Burkhart

Date of Death: July 4, 1966

Date of Burial: July 7, 1966

Burial: Mt Hope Cemetery

Collision at Unmarked Crossroad Kills Mrs. Charles Burkhart, 55, of St. Mary's Township on Monday

Adams County recorded its second traffic death of 1966 at 12:40 pm on Independence Day, Monday, July 4. The victim is Mrs. Helen M. Burkhart, 55, wife of Charles F. Burkhart, well-known St. Mary's Township farmer living on Decatur RR 6.

Mrs. Burkhart was fatally injured in a collision at an unmarked Adams County cross road, one mile south and one mile east of Monroe, at the intersection of roads, 100 South and 100 East. Her car which she was driving and in which she was traveling alone, was involved in a collision with a machine driven by John Steve Amstutz, 17, son of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Amstutz of Monroe RR 1. He received severe scalp lacerations and cuts on his right arm and elbow and abrasions on his right knee. He is in the Adams County Memorial Hospital where his condition is reported satisfactory.

Mrs. Burkhart was dead on arrival at the Adams County Memorial Hospital. Death was attributed to a basal skull fracture. County Coroner Richard Linn said he will return a verdict of accidental death. An autopsy was performed on the body.

Amstutz was driving north, Mrs. Burkhart was going west. The Amstutz youth said he looked in all directions, but did not see the car coming from the east. A field of tall wheat partially obstructed his view and the Burkhart car has a light colored top which made it hard for Amstutz to see the vehicle. However, it is believed by investigating police that Mrs. Burkhart saw the Amstutz car and tried to stop as her car skidded for a distance of 42 feet, indicating that she applied the brakes vigorously. Damage to the Burkhart car was estimated at \$1500 and loss to the Amstutz machine at \$750.00.

Mrs. Burkhart was thrown out of the car. Her car had a seat belt but it was not used. Young Amstutz remained in his car and after the impact went over to where Mrs. Burkhart was lying. She was still breathing at the time but is believed to have died soon afterwards. Neither car turned over. Deputy Sheriff Harold Schindler and State Trooper Dan Kwasneski investigated.

The traffic victim was a lifelong resident of St. Mary's Township and was widely known. She was born February 27, a daughter of Orville and Roxie Baumgartner Stewart. She graduated from Wren, Ohio High School with the class of 1929 and on June 20, 1930, married Charles F. Burkhart, who is a farmer and a ditching contractor.

She was a member of the Salem Methodist Church and the WSCS of the church, the Friendship Village Home Demonstration Club, and a member of the Women's Missionary Society of the Willshire, Ohio Church of God.

Surviving in addition to the husband are three sons, John W., Monroe RR 1, and Roger W. and Melvin L., both at home; a daughter, Mrs. Russell (Patsy) Lenhart, Woodland Hills, California; three grandchildren and a brother, Gerald Stewart, Ohio City, Ohio, RR 2.

Services will be held at 1:30 pm Thursday at the Zwick Funeral Home in Decatur, where friends may call. Rev. Joseph E. Gibson, pastor of the Salem Methodist Church will officiate and burial will be in Mt. Hope Cemetery.

Berne Library Heritage Room
MRE Obit Book 1966 - 1972
Transcribed by Jim Cox