

(Handwritten date: Monday, May 29, 1939)

EDNA M. SMITH FATALLY HURT ON CROSSING

Former Monroe Tp. Girl, 17, Dead, Brother Hurt When Train Hits Car

Edna Marie Smith, aged 17, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Adolph Smith, living 3 miles northeast of Decatur, but formerly of Monroe twp., died at 6 o'clock Sunday evening at the Adams county hospital, from injuries suffered Sunday afternoon about 3 o'clock when an automobile in which she was riding was struck by a train.

The accident happened at Peterson, a little village several miles northwest of here. She had one leg nearly severed, both arms fractured and suffered internal injuries.

The dead girl's brother, Harvey Smith, 16, driver of the automobile, had his left arm so badly crushed that it was amputated at the hospital. His condition was considered fairly good today and it is believed that he will recover.

Five other occupants of the auto escaped with minor injuries. They are Grace Straub, 17, and her sister, Lois, 15, daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Straub of Decatur R. R. No. 4; Della Bieberich, 16, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Otto Bieberich of Decatur, R. R. No. 2; Brisbane Skiles, 16, son of Ellis Skiles of near Peterson, and Richard Helmrich, 12, of Decatur, R. R. No. 3.

Sheriff Ed Miller investigated and said the auto apparently stalled on the tracks. It was hurled against a freight car standing on a siding and was demolished. The 35-car train traveled its length before it could be stopped.

Members of the crew of the train, all from Frankfort, were C. L. Loop, engineer; R. Kelly, conductor; E. G. Henson, flagman; D. H. Fricks, brakeman; and O. E. Matchet, fireman.

All of those injured were taken to the hospital except the Helmrich lad, but none were seriously hurt except the Smith youth.

Several from this community came to the scene of the accident soon after it happened and it was a pitiful sight. The car was totally demolished and no one can understand how the majority of those in the car escaped with only slight injuries.

The crossing at Peterson is said to be partly obstructed, and it is not believed that the people in the car saw the freight train until after it was close to the machine. Then the car stalled, it was said by Sheriff Miller, and before the driver could get it started, the train crashed into the machine and the impact of the crash and the cries of the injured could be heard for nearly a mile. The injured were removed to the hospital in an ambulance.

BORN IN MONROE TWP.

Edna Marie Smith was born in Monroe twp., Aug. 14, 1921, a daughter of Adolph and Alice Helmrich Smith. The family is well known here and formerly attended the St. John's Reformed church at Vera Cruz. They lived for some time on the farm where Oscar Steiner now lives, west of Monroe.

Surviving are the parents, the brother in the hospital and another brother, and a sister, Barbara, both at home.

The funeral will be Tuesday afternoon at 2 o'clock at the Magley Reformed church, following a short (cut off)