

Friday, 13 August 1937

Popular Decatur Young Lady Is Instantly Killed Thursday Evening As Auto Hits Horse
Prominent Decatur Girl Is Victim Of Tragic Accident; Others Not Seriously Hurt.

FUNERAL MONDAY

Photo: (caption) Victim of Tragic Wreck - Miss Katherine Hyland

Miss Katherine Hyland, one of Decatur's most popular young ladies, was killed instantly Thursday evening when the auto in which she was riding struck a horse on state highway 15, four miles south of Milford.

Grief touched the hearts of hundreds of Decatur citizens today as news of the tragic death of Miss Katherine Helen Hyland, 31, killed instantly in a traffic accident four miles south of Milford on state highway 15 Thursday evening shortly after 7 o'clock.

Miss Hyland, one of the most popular and highly respected members of Decatur's younger set, had left Decatur Monday afternoon with Miss Agnes Baker, on a belated vacation to Lake James.

Miss Hyland and Miss Baker had visited yesterday at Warsaw with Miss Marjorie Dague, formerly employed in the office of the Cloverleaf Creameries, Inc., in this city, but transferred two years ago to the Warsaw branch.

The young ladies, accompanied by Miss Dague's friend, Robert Norton of Nashville, Tenn., were en-route from Warsaw to Lake Wawasee.

Miss Baker was driving north on road 15. Miss Hyland was riding in the front seat and Miss Dague and Mr. Norton in the rear.

At a point four miles south of Milford, a large draft horse, which had broken loose from the field of its owner, Cloyse Thomas, loomed in front of their auto. The horse reared and came down with full force on the side of the car occupied by Miss Hyland.

Miss Hyland was practically instantly killed, with every bone in her face and head fractured. Only one other mark a slight scratch on one hand, was found on her body.

After striking the horse, the Decatur auto, owned by Lloyd Baker of this city, careened into a south-bound car driven by Russell Hull, South Whitley, who was accompanied by his son Keith.

None Serious

None of the other occupants of the two autos was seriously injured. Miss Baker suffering severely from shock at the death of her most intimate friend, was brought to her home here early this morning.

Miss Dague, who suffered cuts and bruises, and Mr. Norton, who sustained a brain concussion, are confined to the McDonald hospital at Warsaw, but their condition was described as good today. The South Whitley men were only slightly injured.

G. E. Employe

Miss Hyland's tragic death comes as a distinct shock to officials and employes of the Decatur works of the General Electric company.

Miss Hyland had been employed in the company's office in this city for the past 12 years, and at the time of her death was payroll clerk.

Fellow-workers at the G. E. crowded into the Democrat office Thursday night, hoping against hope that early reports might be proven false.

Miss Hyland had not taken her vacation during the regular period set for employes' vacation because of the heavy press of office duties.

Native of Decatur

Miss Hyland was born in Decatur November 19, 1905, the daughter of Patrick and Ella Hyland. She [some cut off] electric company and had been a steady employe for 12 years.

Miss Hyland was a member of the St. Mary's Catholic church and the St. Agnes sodality.

She was a prominent in social and civic activities of the community. She was one of the leaders of the Goeode club, an organization of the women employes of the G. E. company.

Miss Hyland was a charter member of the Junior Chamber of Commerce and gave invaluable assistance during its organization. She served as a director of the club and in 1936 was club secretary. This year, as a representative of the club, she served on an important Street Fair committee.

She was one of the most active members of the Delta Theta Tau sorority.

...Funeral Monday

Surviving are the mother, Mrs. Ella Hyland, with whom she lived at 122 South Forth street; a sister Mrs. Donald Smith of this city; and a brother, Arthur J. (Pat) Hyland, WPA director at Bloomington.

Funeral services will be held at 9 o'clock Monday morning at the St. Mary's [rest cut off].

Adams County Historical Museum

1937 Scrapbook, image 046

Transcribed by Autumn Callahan