

Decatur Lady Is Critically Hurt Friday

Mrs. Margaret Kohne, 56-year old wife of well-known Decatur doctor Gerald J. Kohne, was critically injured in a head-on collision of two cars in Allen county Friday evening.

A report from the Lutheran hospital in Fort Wayne this morning, where Mrs. Kohne was taken immediately after the crash, listed her in "critical" condition.

Dr. Kohne was contacted at the Fort Wayne hospital and he reported that she suffered a skull fracture and multiple fracture of the upper jaw, among other injuries.

She was rushed into surgery upon arriving at the hospital and was in surgery for about four hours. At 10 a.m. today, Mrs. Kohne remained unconscious.

Also Injured

Her daughter, Kathleen, 22, and the driver of the other car, Annita Mendez, 27, of Decatur, were less seriously injured. Miss Kohne received severe laceration on the right knee and multiple bruises and cuts of the face and head. She is listed in fair condition at the Lutheran hospital.

Miss Mendez, a receptionist for Dr. R. E. Allison of Decatur, was taken to the Adams county memorial hospital with cuts over the right eye and on the right leg.

The head-on crash occurred at dusk, a short time after 4 p.m. Friday, one mile north of the Adams-Allen county line on U.S. 27, just north of the Barkley road intersection.

Collide Head-On

Mrs. Kohne was operating her auto south on 27, with her daughter the only passenger, when the northbound Mendez car passed an unidentified vehicle and collided head-on with the Kohne car.

State trooped Dan Kwasneski and Allen county deputy sheriff Larry Vaughn were the investigating officers at the scene, and listed both cars as total losses.

The officers said no charges had yet been filed, but investigation of the crash was being continued.

MRS. G. J. KOHNE DIES WEDNESDAY OF AUTO INJURIES

Decatur Lady Is Dead From Crash Injury

Mrs. Margaret E. Kohne, 56, well known Decatur lady, and wife of Dr. Gerald J. Kohne, prominent Decatur physician, died at 3:30 o'clock Wednesday afternoon at the Lutheran hospital, Fort Wayne, of injuries suffered in a head-on collision of two autos last Friday afternoon.

Mrs. Kohne had been in critical condition from a skull fracture and other severe injuries since the collision shortly after 4 o'clock Friday afternoon on U. S. highway 27, one mile north of the Adams-Allen county line.

The accident occurred when the car in which Mrs. Kohne was riding was struck by one driven by Miss Annita Mendez, also of Decatur, as the latter was passing an unidentified vehicle.

Mrs. Kohne's daughter, Miss Kathleen Kohne, in the same car with her mother, escaped with a severe laceration to her right knee and multiple bruises and cuts of the face and head. She was dismissed from the Lutheran hospital over the weekend.

Miss Mendez, a receptionist for Dr. R. E. Allison of this city, was dismissed from the Adams county memorial hospital Tuesday after treatment for cuts over the right eye and of the right leg.

Mrs. Kohne's death was the 34th traffic fatality in Allen county for 1963.

Funeral Friday

The accident victim was born in Oak Park, Ill., April 29, 1907, a daughter of Edward A. and Lida Attle-Sheley. She was married to Dr. Kohne in Hammond Sept. 26, 1931.

Mrs. Kohne graduated from the University of Chicago and taught school prior to her marriage.

She was a member of St. Mary's Catholic church, the Rosary society, the Catholic Ladies of Columbia, Tri Kappa sorority, the Ave Maria study club, and the Adams county medical society's auxiliary.

Surviving are her husband; three daughters, Mrs. John (Dorothy) Hegeman of Somerville, N. J., Mrs. Paul (Marjorie) DeRosa of Speedway, and Miss Kathleen Kohne, of Berwyn, Ill.; and two sons, Michael and Anthony Kohne, both of Decatur. One daughter preceded her in death.

Funeral services will be conducted at 9:15 a.m. Friday at St. Mary's Catholic church, with the Rt. Rev. Msgr. Simeon Schmitt officiating. Burial will be in the Catholic cemetery. The body was removed to the Gillig & Doan funeral home, where friends may call after 4 p.m. today until time of the services. The rosary will be recited at 8 p.m. today. The casket will remain closed.

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Contributed by Janice Vasilovski