

Dated 10-27-1962

Decatur Lady Killed As Train Hits Auto

Funeral services for Mrs. Marie H. York, killed Saturday afternoon in a car-train accident in Allen county, will be held at 9 a.m. Wednesday at the St. Mary's Catholic church.

Mrs. York, 57, a well-known Decatur lady and a resident of 936 Harrison St. in this city was killed at 4:06 p.m. Saturday when her auto was struck by a speeding passenger train on an Allen county road. The Decatur lady was northbound on the Minnick road, when the mishap occurred at a Pennsylvania railroad crossing three miles south of New Haven.

Manhattan passenger train No. 55, traveling at 79 miles an hour, struck Mrs. York's auto in the middle of the one-track crossing, shoving the auto an estimated three-quarters of a mile along the tracks after the impact.

Failed To See

Investigation revealed that Mrs. York apparently failed to see the approaching westbound train, and drove onto the tracks into the path of the speeding train. There were no skid marks or other evidence to indicated that she had attempted to stop.

Engineer Jack Zolman, 61, of Fort Wayne, stated to police that he saw the automobile nearing the tracks and sounded the train whistle, but the car failed to stop. The force of impact sheared off the entire front of the vehicle and the engine of the train was embedded halfway into the passenger side of the car.

G.E. Employee

An employee of the General Electric in Decatur, Mrs. York died of multiple injuries, including a fractured skull, broken neck and compound fractures of both arms and both legs. The body was taken to the E. Harper & Sons funeral home in New Haven, and later removed the Zwick funeral home.

The railroad crossing is marked only by a cross-arm signal, one of two such crossings on the Minnick road. State trooper Don Smith, sheriff Custer Dunifon, and Dr. Edgar N. Mendenhall, Allen county coroner, investigated the mishap.

Funeral Wednesday

The accident victim was born in Decatur July 11, 1905, a daughter of Andrew and Mary Keller-Foos, and was a lifelong resident of this city. She was married to Paul York May 26, 1927, and her husband preceded her in death in 1958.

Mrs. York, a graduate of the Decatur Catholic schools, was a member of St. Mary's Catholic church, the Rosary society, and the Catholic Ladies of Columbia.

Surviving are her mother, Mrs. Mary Foos of Decatur; four daughters, Mrs. Louis (Patricia) Ferber of Taipie, Formosa, whose husband is serving with the U.S. Air Force; Mrs. Richard (Joanne) Devine of Fort Wayne, Mrs. Thomas (Marjorie) Meier of New Haven, and Miss Mary Lou York, at home; one son, John York, at home; six grandchildren; three brothers, Fred and George Foos, both of Decatur and Herbert Foos of Linton, and two sisters, Mrs. Ralph (Martha Jane) Kriegel and Mrs. Jerome (Betty) Reed, both of Decatur.

Funeral services will be conducted at 9 a.m. Wednesday at St. Mary's Catholic church, Rt. Rev. Msgr. Simeon Schmitt officiating. Burial will be in the Catholic cemetery. Friends may call at the funeral home after 7 p.m. today until time of the services. Recitation of the rosary will be at 8 p.m. Tuesday.

Transcribed by Janice Vasilovski