

John H. Helm City's First Traffic Death

Dies Saturday Of Injuries Suffered Here On January 4

Decatur's first traffic fatality of 1955 was recorded Saturday evening when John H. Helm, 86, retired farmer of this city, died at 6:05p.m. at the Adams county memorial hospital.

Mr. Helm, who had lived in the McConnell apartments on Madison street since 1950, suffered a broken leg and arm about 10 o'clock the morning of January 4, when struck by an auto at the intersection of Second and Court streets. His condition has been serious since that time.

The auto was driven by Vincent Parker, Decatur, who was making a left turn off Second street onto Court when Mr. Helm was struck. A charge of failure to yield to a pedestrian is pending in justice of peace court.

The traffic victim was born in St. Mary's township June 22, 1868, a son of Samuel and Sarah Smith-Helm, and was married to Mary Elizabeth Gephart, who died Dec. 20, 1936.

Mr. Helm was a member of the Mt. Tabor Methodist church at Bobo.

Surviving are three daughters, Mrs. Artie Jackson and Mrs. Earl Tumbleson of St. Mary's township, and Mrs. Mildred Young of Decatur; two grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. One brother is deceased.

Funeral services will be conducted at 2 p.m. Tuesday at the Zwick funeral home, the Rev. Edgar Johnston officiating. Burial will be in the North Salem cemetery. Friends may call at the funeral home until time of the services.