

Thurs. April 6, 1939

Victims of Accident

PHOTO of Mrs. Dan Hoffman and children

Mrs. Hoffman, aged 33, and children, Elizabeth Louise, 3, and Helen Diane, 8 months old, were killed in a truck-auto collision 35 miles from their home at Houston Texas. The accident occurred Tuesday morning.

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Luther Yager Flies to Texas for Hoffman Rites

Luther Yager, son of Mr. and Mrs. L.L. Yager of this place left here this afternoon for Fort Wayne, where he will board a westbound plane late today, on the first leg of a trip to Houston, Texas, to attend the rites of Mrs. Daniel Hoffman and two children, victims of a auto-truck crash Tuesday, At Chicago Luther will transfer to a southbound air liner, and is scheduled to arrive at Houston at 11:00 Friday forenoon. The funeral will be held Friday afternoon and Luther will arrive in time to attend the rites. This would not be possible if the trip would be made by train.

Mon. April 10, 1939

Details of Fatal Wreck are Received

Driver of Truck Which Hit Dan Hoffman Car is Arrested

A copy of Houston Post has been received here, giving in full the details of the accident last Tuesday in which Mrs. Dan Hoffman and children were killed. The paper also shows two pictures of the wreck, and both the Hoffman car and the truck were totally demolished. The driver of the truck has been arrested.

Luther Yager of this place attended the rites which were held Friday afternoon at Houston. He made the trip by plane, and is expected to return to Berne sometime this week.

The story, giving the details of the accident, as taken from the Houston Post, is as follows:

AUTO COLLISION WIPES OUT FAMILY OF DRIVER HERE Wife and 2 Daughter of Dan Hoffman Die on Way to Picnic - Death wiped out Dan Hoffman's family in the twinkling of an eye Tuesday. His wife and two little daughters were killed in a collision between their coupe and a heavy truck on the Houston-Hempstead highway a mile north of Fairbanks.

The family was going on a picnic. Mr. Hoffman, the only survivor in his car, was taken to Heights clinic, overcome by grief and shock.

Believed Uninjured

"We don't think he was injured in the accident," hospital attendants said Tuesday afternoon, "but we haven't been able to get him quiet enough to make a thorough examination."

The dead were Mrs. Helen Bentz Hoffman, 33, Elizabeth Louise Hoffman, three years old, and Helen Diane Hoffman, eight months. The family lived at 6429 Mercer. Mr. Hoffman, 35 years old is a corrosion inspector for the Humble Pipe Line company.

..... Judge Frank Williford, Jr., set bond at \$2500. "I don't know how it happened," the truck driver said. "It happened too quick."

Eyewitnesses told Deputy Sheriff Walter Kilgore that Ruff, traveling toward Houston with a load of mohair, swung out to pass two other trucks. The truck Ruff was driving met the Hoffman car head-on. Ruff was thrown clear as his truck turned over in the ditch, the witnesses said. The Hoffman car did not overturn. D.B. Roeher and George Thomas, who live near Fairbanks, rushed the baby to the Heights hospital. She died within half an hour after arrival.

Mrs. Rose Conner of 105 East Twenty-seventh, one of the first persons to arrive at the scene of the accident, said when she drove up Mr. Hoffman was running up and down the highway shouting, "Oh My God! Oh, My God!" (Image cut off)

Rites Friday for 3 Victims of Accident

Mrs. Daniel D. Hoffman, 2 Children, Die in Texas Truck-Auto Crash

Funeral services for Mrs. Helen Bentz Hoffman, 33, wife of Daniel d. Hoffman, and her two children, Elizabeth Louise, aged 3, and Helen Diane, aged 8 months who were killed in an accident Tuesday forenoon, will be held Friday afternoon at a funeral parlor at Houston, Texas, it was learned here last evening. Burial will be made at Houston. Triple funeral services will be held.

Only Luther Yager from here will attend the rites, according to plans at noon today. Mrs. Charles Bentz, Mrs. Hoffman's mother, and one of Mrs. Hoffman's sisters planned to leave yesterday for Houston but changed their plans as Mrs. Bentz is suffering considerably from shock since receiving the tragic news.

Mr. Hoffman and his wife were both natives of this community. Mr. Hoffman was also injured in the accident but is expected to recover unless complications set in. Mr. Hoffman is in a semi-conscious condition and still appeared dazed. He, however, did not suffer any fractures, as far as could be learned, but was badly cut and bruised. Mr. Hoffman and family were enroute from Houston to an oil station, Mr. Hoffman being an officer of the Humble Pipe Line co., when the accident happened. The Hoffman car was struck by a truck, the accident happening about 35 miles from Houston. Mrs. Hoffman and children were killed instantly. The accident happened at 10 AM Tuesday.

News of the tragedy was received here Tuesday evening by the L.L. Yager family. It was at first believed that the bodies of Mrs. Hoffman and two children would be returned her but Mr. Hoffman desires to have them buried at Houston.

Mrs. Hoffman was born Oct. 15, 1905, the daughter of Charles and Cora Yake Bentz. She graduated from the Hartford township high school with the class of 1923 and from the Frot Wayne International Business College in 1924. Following her business course she was employed at the Schug Insurance Agency here and later at the Dunbar Furniture Co. where she served as head stenographer for some time. While she worked here she stayed at the Mrs. Mary Kerr Home. Her father Charles Bentz, was prominent Hartford township farmer until his death Dec. 22, 1935.

The oldest child, Elizabeth Louise, was born at Houston, Texas, Oct. 19, 1935, and the baby Helen Diane, was born at Houston on July 9, 1938.

Surviving Mrs. Hoffman are her husband, the mother, Mrs. Charles Bentz of Hartford township the grandmother, Mrs. Caroline Yake, and the following sisters and brothers: Mrs. Edward T. Madden of Honolulu, Mrs. Reuben Ischo f Ft. Wayne, and Mary, Roger and Herbert, all at home.

Mr. Hoffman, a native of Linn Grove, has been employed with the oil company for several years, and the family resided at Fort Wayne temporarily two years ago, when he was supervising the laying of a pipe line. He is a nephew of Mrs. L.L. Yager of this place and Ed Beeler west of town, Mrs. L.A. Todd and Dr. Sterling Hoffman of Fort Wayne, and the late Mrs. E.C. Bierie.

When the fatal accident happened Mr. Hoffman was going to one of the oil stations on a business trip and had taken his family along for the ride.

Adams County Historical Society 1939 Scrapbook, Image 071
Transcribed by Danielle Warmuth