

Dated July 20, 1959

Decatur Lad Is Killed Sunday Evening When Auto Is Overturned

A Decatur youth was killed and two local companions were injured, one seriously, Sunday at 4:30 p.m. when their car blew a tire and went out of control on state road 101 in Allen county, near Harlan.

Stephen Nicholas Meyer, 17, of 631 S. 13th street, died of a skull fracture at 6:45 p.m. Sunday in Parkview hospital in Fort Wayne. Jack Rodney Meyer, 17, a cousin of the victim, who lives at route 5, Decatur, with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Meyer, is listed in "poor condition" this morning at Parkview with multiple facial lacerations and a completely severed lower lip. The driver of the car, Donald Lawrence Gase, 22, of 521 S. 13th street, was treated for minor injuries, and released.

Gase was charged with reckless driving by the Allen county sheriff's police, who reported the Gase vehicle driving at an excessive rate of speed on the wet highway. Cpl. Wellard Hadley said that Gase admitted driving 70 miles an hour while southbound on the highway when the tire blew.

Hadley also reported that 202 feet of skid marks were laid down by the car as it careened along the east ditch and slashed through several feet of fence. On the last 60 feet of the fatal plunge, the car rolled over several time. The state police reported that Gase was thrown from the car while the two injured youths remained in the car.

The three youth were returning home after a Sunday outing at Hamilton Lake.

High School Senior

Stephen Meyer, a son of Arthur C. Meyer, has been employed as a clerk at ??? in Decatur during the ????. He would have been a senior at Decatur Catholic high school next fall.

The accident victim was born in Decatur Feb. 12, 1942, a son of Arthur C. and Beulah Nicholas-Meyer. His mother died several years ago. Stephen and his father have been making their home with their sister and daughter. Mrs. Richard DesJean, 632 South 13th street.

The Meyer lad was a member of St. Mary's Catholic church.

Surviving in addition to the father and sister are a brother, Robert E. Meyer, of Decatur, Adams county deputy sheriff, and a half-sister, Mrs. George (Virginia) Carey of Gladstone, Ore.

Funeral services will be conducted at 9 a.m. Wednesday at St. Mary's Catholic church, the Very Rev. Simeon Schmitt officiating. Burial will be in the Catholic cemetery. The body was removed to the Zwick funeral home, where friends may call after 7 o'clock this evening until time of the services. The rosary will be recited at 7:00 p.m. Tues.