

Adams County Historical Museum - 1939 Scrapbook

(Handwritten date: Friday, June 9, 1939)

THREE MINISTERS FATALLY HURT IN LITTLE OVER YEAR Pastors Ratcliff, Habegger and Barr Victims of Auto Mishaps

Three pastors, of this immediate community have been fatally injured in a little over a year it was revealed today in a study of the Berne Witness Index files.

The fatal accident claiming the life of the Rev. Alva E. Barr, pastor of the Pleasant Mills and Salem M. E. churches, Tuesday night, was the third.

The Rev. Barr passed away at the Adams County Memorial hospital at Decatur at 10:45 p.m. following injuries sustained when an auto driven by Lawrence Wick, 21, of Fort Wayne, formerly of Chattanooga, Ohio, struck the pastor at about 8:00 o'clock. Funeral services were conducted for the crash victim this afternoon at 1:00 o'clock at the Salem M.E. church.

The first victim was the Rev. Verlin B. Ratcliff, 58, pastor of the Springhill and Chattanooga M.P. churches. He died in the Methodist hospital at Fort Wayne, February 2, 1938 following an auto accident on U.S. road 27 near the Adams-Allen county lines on January 11. He had suffered a fractured skull, leg and back.

The Rev. E. O. Habegger, passed away at the Wells county hospital at Bluffton on his 53rd birthday following an auto crash on December 26 about 20 miles west of Berne on state road 118. The family was enroute home from visiting Mrs. Habegger's parents near Bluffton. Mrs. Habegger and two sons, Arthur Dale and Orlyn recovered but were critically injured.

Transcribed by Karin King