

**Dated September 30, 1961**

### Young Driver Killed As Car Crashes Tree

Dale Edwin Gerardot, 20, R.R. 1, Monroeville, was killed early yesterday when the car he was driving slammed into a tree just off the Monroeville Road, one-half mile west of Monroeville.

He was dead on arrival at Parkview Memorial Hospital. The body was taken to the Marquart funeral Home in Monroeville. Gerardot received a fractured skull, chest injuries and severe compound fractures of the face and head.

Officers said Gerardot missed a curve at a high rate of speed and his car hit a tree two feet in diameter and 35 feet off the road.

His death was the second auto fatality within two days and Allen County's 20<sup>th</sup> of the year.

Thursday afternoon Warren E. Opliger, 55, Columbia City, was killed in a multiple vehicle crash on U.S. 30 near the Hillegas Road. Mrs. Jeanne Opliger, 36, was in "fair" condition last night at Parkview Memorial Hospital and Onan Laughman, 54, also of Columbia City, was in "satisfactory" condition.

Gerardot was a member of St. Louis Catholic Church, Besancon, and Knights of Columbus Lodge 864 in Decatur.

He is survived by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Cletus Gerardot, Monroeville; three brothers, Dennis and Larry, Monroeville, and Howard, at home; a sister, Mrs. Dale Anderson, Monroeville; and the maternal grandmother, Mrs. Oscar Urbine, Monroeville.

Funeral services will be held Tuesday at 9 a.m. at the funeral home and at 9:30 a.m. at the church, the Rev. Andrew Mathieu officiating. Burial will be in the church cemetery. Friends may call at the funeral home after 7:30 p.m. today.

**Transcribed by Janice Vasilovski**