

## **Hildegard Babler**

**1895 - 1917**

A most distressing accident occurred Monday forenoon at about 11 o'clock in an auto collision, about three miles out of Milwaukee, in which a local car figured and in which Miss Hilda Babler, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Otto Babler of Monticello lost her life.

The following account appeared in the Milwaukee Sentinel regarding the accident.

Miss Hilda Babler, 21 years old, Monticello, Wis. was fatally injured when a Hudson touring car in which she was riding, driven by Edwin Stuessy, New Glarus, Wis. collided with a Ford driven by August Kunze, 970 Muskego avenue, three miles out of Milwaukee on the Janesville road Monday morning. Miss Helen Freitag of Monticello also was a passenger in the car with Stuessy.

According to Stuessy, the Hudson was going along at a high rate of speed and was about to pass the Ford. Stuessy asserts that Kunze failed to signal that he was about to turn into August Borkenhagen's road house.

"I signaled that I was going to pass him," said Stuessy, "and had almost succeeded. He caught my rear wheel. We turned over twice. He failed to indicate that he was going to turn in."

The Hudson turned over twice and was carried along the road about eighty feet by its own impetus. The two girls were thrown on some piles of lumber near by. Stuessy was thrown into the ditch.

The girls were unconscious when Borkenhagen, who seems to have been the only eye witness of the accident, arrived. They were taken to Mount Sinai hospital. Miss Babler died shortly after entrance.

Kunze asserts that he did not hear Stuessy signal and that Stuessy hit him as he was turning.

Miss Babler was a sister-in-law of Henry Stuessy of the Stuessy-Schultz Piano company, 525 Grand avenue. She was in Milwaukee visiting her sister, Mrs. Stuessy, when she decided to return to Monticello with her friend, Miss Freitag. Edwin Stuessy urged her to come and told her she would have to hurry, as he was anxious to get back to New Glarus to take care of some business there.

Miss Babler died from internal injuries, according to the superintendent of Mount Sinai hospital. Miss Freitag's collar bone was broken and she was bruised about the head. Stuessy's hand was cut by glass of the wind shield. Kunze was slightly bruised.