

Herman Becker Killed, Wife Hurt In Bridge Mishap

Couple En Route Home Following Teacher Event

Monticello's school principal for the past 27 years, Herman A. Becker, 59, was killed in a traffic accident near Verona last night when the car driven by his wife went out of control and struck a bridge abutment.

Mr. and Mrs. Becker were enroute home from Madison where they had visited a daughter and he had attended the Southern Wisconsin Teachers Association Convention.

Mr. Becker, well known former athletic coach and educator, was pronounced dead on arrival at Madison General hospital.

The accident was reported to the Dane County sheriff's office at 9:20 p.m.

Mrs. Becker, the former Hazel Hoesly of New Glarus, is reported in satisfactory condition at Madison General hospital this morning. She suffered severe face cuts and a fractured arm.

Dane County officers said the accident occurred on Highway PB about three miles south of Verona, on the shortcut from Highways 151-19 to Paoli north of Belleville. The mishap occurred on a straight, level dry stretch of highway, deputies said.

The entire front of the car was reported as ripped away by the mishap.

The fatality, the eighth in Dane County this year, brought the state traffic toll to 81, compared to 87 at this time a year ago.

Herman A. Becker was born in New Glarus April 26, 1900, the son of Salomea and Minnie Figi Becker. He graduated from New Glarus high school, attended Ripon College, graduated from Platteville State College and did graduate work at the University of Wisconsin.

He taught for several years at New Glarus and was principal there before coming to Monticello in 1932. He was a successful basketball coach early in his teaching profession and also was well known to many area cage fans as tournament manager for the annual WIAA cage meet held at Monticello. He was to have been in charge of the district basketball tournament scheduled to be held in Monticello March 4 and 5.

Mr. Becker had taught for more than 35 years, and was an educator in mathematics and drivers education classes this year in addition to his principalship.

An active member of area fraternal organizations, Mr. Becker was a past master of the Monticello Masonic lodge and also belonged to the Order of Eastern Star and the New Glarus chapter of Royal Arch Masons.

He was a member of the Zwingli United Church of Christ, the Wisconsin Education Association and the Southern Wisconsin Education Association.

Mr. Becker and Hazel Hoesly, daughter of Mrs. Esther S. Hefty-Hoesly and the late Dr. Henry H. Hoesly, New Glarus dentist, were married June 5, 1928 at Manchester, Ia.



Survivors include his wife and two daughters. Mrs. Dale (Nancy) Halverson. Brookfield, Ill., and Mrs. Edward (Beth Ann) Marty. 5405 Flamingo road, Madison: one brother, Sylvan J., Lombard. Ill., who is presently in England on business for an American corporation, and a sister. Mrs. George Braun, Norfolk. Va., and three grandchildren.

His father died in 1906, his mother, June 25, 1957, and a brother in infancy, 1903.

Services have been set tentatively for Tuesday and friends may call at the Voegeli funeral home in Monticello after 1 p.m. Monday. Burial will be in the New Glarus United Church of Christ cemetery.

Attempts are being made to locate Mr. Becker's brother in England to complete arrangements for the funeral.