Auto Crash Kills Mrs. Clare Pickens, Injures 4 Others

Mrs. Vinton V. Pickens, 50, of Lake Odessa was killed early Thursday evening in a one car accident on M-50 west of Lake Odessa, about a half mile west of the Freeport road in Kent county.

Mrs. Pickens, the driver of the car, was headed west en route to Grand Rapids to attend the Woodland-Fowler basketball game at the Godwin gym.

The car went out of control after swerving to the right traveling 102 feet before returning to the highway. It then continued across the road ending up in a field, rolling over before coming to a stop, according to State Troopers.

Dr. Henry Kreulen of Grand Rapids, Kent county medical examiner, said Mrs. Pickens instant death was caused by a skull fracture and broken neck.

Her passengers included her daughter, Joy, 15, a Sophomore at Lakewood High, who suffered a skull injury and abrasions of her legs; Mrs. Russell Hewitt, 45, who suffered rib fractures and bruises of her head; Mrs. Edward (Suzie) Cooley, 38, who suffered a fracture of her back and facial cuts, and Mrs. Larry Eggers, 24, wife of the Lakewood basketball coach, who suffered bruises and a sprain of her left shoulder. Mrs. Eggers was treated and released but the others remain at Pennock hospital.

Mrs. Pickens was born at Baldwin, Dec. 14, 1912, and when a small girl moved to Grand Rapids with her parents, Edward and Gladys (Vinton) Vis where her father was a doctor at Burton Heights.

She was an only child and her parents died within three months of each other while she was a Senior. She graduated from South High school in Grand Rapids in 1931 and was also a graduate of the St. Mary's Hospital School of Nursing.

She was very active in civic affairs and worked with the Red Cross Blood bank, National Polio Foundation, Blodgett Orthopedic clinic and as a registered nurse was employed by St. Mary's hospital in Grand Rapids and Pennock hospital in Hastings.

She was associated with her husband, Clare, in the profession of funeral directing, was a member of the Central Methodist Church and Lake Odessa O.E.S. chapter. She served as school nurse in the Lake Odessa school and was very active in all civic and community projects.

Mrs. Pickens was a great granddaughter of Cynthia Moody of the Moody Foundation of the church.

Mr. and Mrs. Pickens moved to Lake Odessa from Grand Rapids when they purchased and assumed the operation of the Pickens Funeral chapel on Jan. 1, 1946.

Surviving are her husband, Clare; two sons, Tom, a student at Central Michigan University, Mt. Pleasant, and Tim, at home, a Junior at Lakewood High school; two daughters, Joy, and Jill, a fifth grade student; also an uncle of Ada.

Funeral services were held Sunday at 2:30 at the Pickens chapel with interment in Lakeside cemetery. Rev. Luther Brokaw of the Central Methodist Church officiated.

Area Deaths

Vicky Stambaugh

NASHVILLE—Vicky Sue Stambaugh, 9, died at 1:23 a.m. Wednesday at Blodgett Hospital in Grand Rapids where she had undergone heart surgery Tuesday. It was her second operation. She underwent surgery for a heart condition in 1956 when she was three years old. She is survived by her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Leo Stambaugh of Nashville; two brothers, Gary and Ronnie; the grandparents, Mrs. Ola Wooston of Hastings and Mr. and Mrs. Earl Stambaugh of Vermontville.

Mrs. Hattie E. Allen

SUNFIELD — Mrs. Hattie E. Allen, 92, lifelong Sunfield area resident, died early Wednesday at the home of a daughter, Mrs. Maida Dawson of near Sunfield. Also surviving is a son, Ora of Charlevoix. Services will be Saturday at 2 p.m. at Woodbury United Brethren Church. The body will be at Mapes-Fisher Funeral Home until Saturday morning. Burial will be in Sunfield Cemetery.

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