

# Sister Mary Martina Bergin

Died August 28 1964

Grinnell Herald Register August 31 1964

## Conduct Final Rites For Sister Mary Martina

Solemn Requiem High Mass services for Sister Mary Martina, who died in an automobile accident on Highway 6 near Brooklyn Friday afternoon, were held at 10:30 a.m. Monday (today) at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Grinnell.

The Rev. L. V. Kuebrich, pastor of St. Mary's, served as Celebrant. Deacon was the Rev. Eugene Hoenig; Sub Deacon was the Rev. John Kennedy, and Master of Ceremonies was the Rev. Martin Horan. The sermon was given by the Rev. Eugene Hoenig.

St. Bridget's Catholic Church in Victor furnished the organist and choir.

The Rosary was recited at St. Francis hospital in Grinnell Saturday and Sunday evenings.

Burial was made in Calvary Cemetery, Grinnell, with Sean Michalek, August Soer and Raymond Michalek, all of Victor, and Leo Flanagan, James Higdon and Pierce Comerford, all of Grinnell, serving as pallbearers.

Smith Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

Sister Mary Martina, 71, of Mt. St. Clare, Clinton, Iowa, was the daughter of John and Bridget Holland Bergin and was born in County Kilkenny, Ireland, on December 7, 1892.

She came to the United States at an early age and entered the Sisters of Third Order of St. Francis of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary on August 8, 1908. She was Professed on August 15, 1911, and took her Final Vows on August 15, 1919.

Sister Mary Martina had taught in various schools of the order, and had been assigned to St. John's parochial school in Victor as a teacher for 23 years. She also had assisted in teaching the Catechism to pre-communion students in Grinnell, Brooklyn and Marengo during the summer sessions for many years.

She had celebrated her golden jubilee of the Sisterhood in 1958.

Survivors include a brother and sister, John Bergin and Mrs. Bridget Brennan, both of County Kilkenny, Ireland.



# Grinnell Herald-Register

TEN CENTS A SINGLE COPY

A NEWSPAPER FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

NINETY-SEVENTH YEAR

GRINNELL, POWESHIEK COUNTY, IOWA, MONDAY, AUGUST 31, 1964

1st In Nation — '58-'61-'63  
1st In Iowa — '58-'64  
Service To Agriculture  
No. 44

## Brooklyn Crash Kills 3; Raises County Traffic Toll To 8

### Victor Nun, 2 Out Of State Men Die Instantly; 2 Others Injured

#### \$800 Damages In 2-Car Accident On Highway 6

Damages were estimated at \$800 in a 2-car accident on Highway 6 near Brooklyn early Friday morning.

The accident occurred at about 12:10 a.m. 2 1/2 miles west of the Flomar Cafe during a heavy rain. Gary Huth, Des Moines, who was driving west, lost control of his automobile and hit an east-bound auto driven by Wendell L. Terrell, Brooklyn. The accident occurred in the south (eastbound) lane of the highway.

There were no injuries. Huth was charged with failure to have his vehicle under control.



**VOLKSWAGEN DEMOLISHED** — The front end of this Volkswagen, in which two out-of-state men died instantly, was smashed back into the front seat in a 2-car accident on Highway 6 near Brooklyn Friday afternoon. The demolished auto had to be dragged into Brooklyn and torn apart by two wreckers before the bodies could be removed.



**PONTIAC WRECKED** — Sister Mary Martina, 71, Victor, died instantly in this 1964 Pontiac when it rammed head-on into the Volkswagen. Two other Catholic nuns in the car were injured.

The Poweshiek county portion of "Bloody Six" has claimed three more lives.

A Catholic nun from Victor and two men from out of state died instantly Friday afternoon in a 2-car crash on Highway 6 one-eighth of a mile west of the junction with Highway 398.

The victims were: Sister Mary Martina, 71, superior of St. John's School at Victor. Calvin C. Toms, 59, Arvada, Colo., a former resident of Mt. Morris, Ill. Vernon L. Arnold, 29, Oregon, Ill.

Two other Catholic nuns, also teachers at the Victor school, were involved in the accident and are now hospitalized in Grinnell. They are:

Sister Mary Geraldine, 55, in serious condition with multiple fractures of arms and legs. Sister Mary Loretta Walsh, 56, in fair condition with fractured limbs.

They are still being checked for possible internal injuries.

**Head-on Collision**  
The accident occurred at about 1:15 p.m. The two vehicles collided almost head-on in the south (eastbound) lane of the 2-lane highway.

A late model Volkswagen carried the two men.

The three nuns were riding in a 1964 Pontiac. Sister Mary Geraldine was driving with Sister Mary Martina in the right front seat and Sister Mary Loretta in the back seat.

The Volkswagen was headed east and the Pontiac west at the time of the accident.

Local law officers have not been able to determine a cause for the accident. They theorize that the Sisters' automobile might have pulled onto the south lane of the highway while attempting to pass a third car and rammed head-on into the Illinois vehicle.

No Skid Marks  
There was no evidence of skid marks from either auto.

The larger Pontiac pushed the smaller foreign auto back about 45 feet before coming to a halt. The Volkswagen then skidded back another 15 feet before stopping.

The two men were pinned in the Volkswagen. The car had to be dragged into Brooklyn and pulled apart by two wreckers before their bodies could be removed.

Sister Mary Martina was thrown from the Pontiac. She apparently died from head injuries received during the impact of the collision.

Sister Mary Geraldine and Sister Mary Loretta were rushed to a Grinnell hospital by an ambulance from Des Moines which happened onto the accident scene. The ambulance was returning to Des Moines after delivering a patient to a point in the east. Henry Karrett and Jack Pearson, the ambulance drivers, are credited with possibly saving Sister Mary Geraldine's life by applying a tourniquet to one of her legs.

**Complete Losses**  
Both autos were considered complete losses. The front ends of both were completely demolished.

Poweshiek County Sheriff Wiley Taylor and Highway Patrolman Robert Klein of Marengo investigated.

Highway 6, which links two uncompleted segments of Interstate 80 between Grinnell and Coralville, is Iowa's most heavily traveled highway. Highway 398 is a stub road leading into Brooklyn.

The three deaths raised Poweshiek county's 1964 traffic fatality total to eight. In 1963, when the county registered an all-time record of 10 traffic deaths, there were only four at a comparative date.

Previous 1964 fatalities were: August 9—John Tomlin, Newton, in a 2-car crash 1 1/2 miles west of Grinnell, on Highway 6.

Two Grinnellians  
June 28—Edward Kester, Grinnell, in a bicycle-car accident on a Grinnell residential street.

June 13—Albert Grattan, Grinnell, from injuries received in a 1-car accident on Highway 146 in Grinnell on February 18.

May 9—Michael Palmer, Grinnell, in a pickup truck-semi truck collision on Highway 146 just south of Grinnell.

February 23—John R. Shay, Des Moines, in a 2-car crash at the intersection of Highway 6 and Highway 21 in the eastern part of the county.

The death of Darrell Rautio, Hopkins, Minn., in a pickup truck accident on an uncompleted segment of Interstate 80 on August 12 apparently does not count toward the county's traffic toll as was first believed. It was not counted as a traffic death as the highway is not yet open to traffic.

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#### For H-R

... a new type possessive of all the qualities of Intertype Royal. The shift to the new type face is but one phase of a continuing program to produce a better Herald-Register.

A comparison between the Herald-Register's old type face and the new Intertype Royal face follows:

#### Intertype Royal

not one reader in a realizes the degree to s critical about size and of type. A variation of thousands of an inch nt is readily apparent. erence of two or three s of an inch in the character is easily o only must the charac- ("The correct size and placed, but the correct s of the thickness of the gth of serif, and other imensions of the entire be maintained.

#### 2.6-Inch Rainfall Lashes Grinnell Saturday Night

3.15 inches of rain lashed Grinnell over the weekend, jumping the city's total rainfall since August 20 to 4.82 inches.

Torrential rain Saturday night — 2.60 inches — caused storm sewers throughout the city to back up, flooding many intersections and streets. The Grinnell fire station was flooded with six inches of rain as catch basins in the station backed up from the heavy downpour.

Temperatures over the weekend climbed into the 80s in the daytime and fell into the 50s every night for comfortable sleeping weather.

Warm conditions and partly cloudy skies are predicted for the next few days with more showers possible.

#### THE WEATHER (Ralph Deck, Official Observer)

August 27 — High 84, low 56.  
August 28 — High 80, low 58.  
August 29 — High 85, low 58.  
August 30 — High 81, low 58.  
August 31 — This morning's low was 56.

#### Poweshiek Bond

## Merchants In 'Harvest of Values'

### 44 Participate In Gigantic Fall Event

This week the merchants of Grinnell will honor the consumers of this trade territory with an assortment of the greatest values ever seen in any shopping center. See the "Harvest of Values" pages of this edition of the Herald Register for details.

**Friendly Community**  
Sales receipts and bank deposits show that Grinnell is soaring ahead as a regional shopping center. There are many contributing factors to this continuous growth. Grinnell for years has been referred to as a friendly community. Progressive merchants, courteous

as a constant challenge to all merchants to bring you quality merchandise at a price you are willing to pay.

The Herald Register serves as a messenger to bring buyer and seller together. We admire your shopping habits, and are proud to join the following merchants in a "Harvest of Values" for you, Mr. and Mrs. Consumer.

#### Sponsors

Bates Flowers, Ben Franklin, Browns Shoe Fit, Coast to Coast, Cunningham Drug, Denniston & Patridge, Eisenman Motors, Garry's Superior "400", Green's Tot Shop, Grinnell Dairy Queen, Grinnell Feed & Grain, Grinnell Implement Store, Grinnell Ready-Mix Concrete, Grinnell State Bank, Harrison's, Iowa Cleaners, Kramer's Jewelry, The Longhorn, McNally's Super Valu, Martin's O. K. Tire

Safeway Stores, Don Sears Implement, Skee-Diner, Stan's Sewing Machine & Vacuum, The Tasty Pastry Shop, United Food Market, Vance Shaw Motor Sales, Van Wechel Motor Sales, Virginia's and Wayne's Steak House.

### Chamber Slates Three Meetings For This Week

Three Chamber of Commerce meetings are slated Tuesday and Wednesday.

Retail Bureau will meet at 9:40 a.m. Tuesday and the executive board will meet at 2:00 p.m. Tuesday, both at the Veterans Memorial Center.

Board of directors will have a dinner meeting at 6:00 p.m. Wednesday at the Longhorn.

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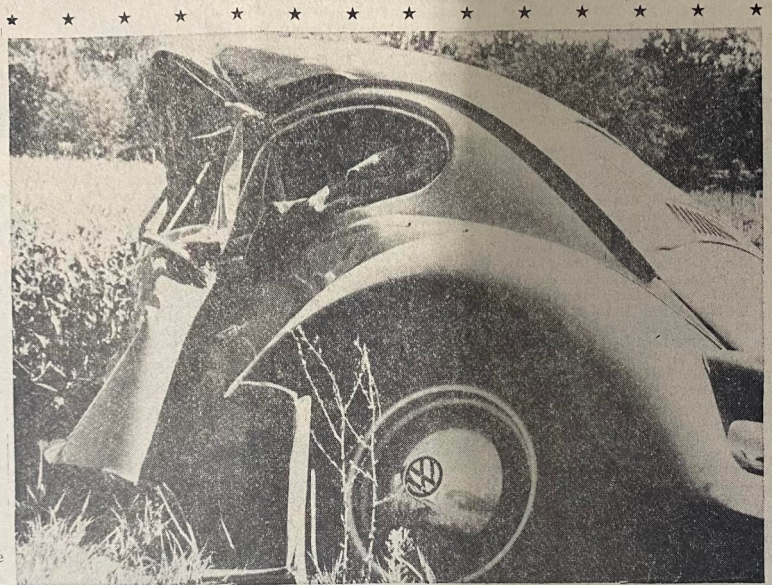
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