

Rites Held for Brooklyn Girl Killed in Automobile Accident

Funeral services were held last Tuesday at the Grace Methodist church for Martha Mae Van Ersvelde, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bruno Van Ersvelde of rural Brooklyn.

Miss Van Ersvelde was killed early Sunday morning, Aug. 13, when the car in which she was riding went off the end of a T-intersection one mile west and one-half mile north of Victor.

Rev. C. Edward Philgreen had charge of the rites and burial was in the Brooklyn IOOF cemetery. Music for the funeral was provided by Linda Krumm. Casket bearers were Floyd, Eugene and Merle Doty, Larry Van Ersvelde, Donald Henry and Michael LaKose.

Martha, who celebrated her 19th birthday July 21, had been a life-long resident of this area. She graduated from BGM high school in 1966 and had planned to enter college this fall. She had been employed the past nine months at the Grinnell State Bank.

At BGM, she participated in F.H.A., Pep Club and was a cheerleader. She was active in 4-H, serving on the County Council, and was active in her church.

Surviving are her parents, two brothers, Roger in the Air Force and Paul at home; two sisters, Nancy of Glenwood and Sara at home; and one grandfather, Forrest Doty, Sr.

Martha died at the accident scene approximately 15 minutes after the car, driven by Camiel Dhooze, Jr., 21, of Brooklyn, slammed into the embankment. Martha was thrown from the rear seat into the dash and windshield, causing fatal head injuries.

Also seriously injured in the crash was Mary Lee Keiser, 18, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Louis Keiser. Less seriously injured were Dhooze and David Collum, 20, of rural Deep River.

A report from the Marengo Memorial hospital today (Wednesday) concerning Mary was that she had spent a good night

and her condition was improving, according to a family spokesman.

Mary received a concussion, head cuts, bruises and a broken arm. She underwent surgery Friday on her arm and a steel plate was inserted.

Patrolman Tom Law, who covered the mishap along with Sgt. Frank Metzger, said the Dhooze car was following another vehicle on the dirt road. The first auto successfully negotiated a turn off the T-intersection but the Dhooze car failed to stop.

The Highway Patrol filed charges against Dhooze of failure to have the vehicle under control.

Miss Van Ersvelde's death was the second recorded in Poweshiek county this year.



Martha Van Ersvelde
Brooklyn (Ia.)

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