

Youth Killed In Car Crash On N. Dixie

Oct 30 - 1971

Donald F. Drouillard, 17, of 928 Patterson Dr., was killed early today in a two-car accident on N. Dixie Highway at Spaulding Rd. in the City of Monroe when a thick blanket of fog covered the ground.

Young Drouillard was the driver of one of the cars involved in the crash which happened about 12:30 a.m. He was pronounced dead on arrival at Mercy Hospital.

Monroe police said young Drouillard was driving his car south on N. Dixie Highway toward Monroe when a car driven by Thomas R. Grandowicz, 23, of 230 Theodore Dr., Riverside Manor, apparently crossed in to the southbound lane, causing a head-on crash.

Mr. Grandowicz, officers said, was driving his car north on N. Dixie.

The victim was pinned in the wreckage of his car until two unidentified men freed him. A passenger in the Drouillard car, Donald Hopper, 16, of 752 Mulhollen Dr., is listed in fair condition today in Mercy Hospital where he is being treated for injuries he suffered.

Mr. Grandowicz also was hospitalized at Mercy and is listed in fair condition.

Patrolman Roy Parent and David DeSloover investigated the crash along with Sergeant Sam Kachar of the Monroe Police Department. Officers said visibility was extremely poor at the time of the crash. Investigation is continuing.

Young Drouillard's death brings to four the number of persons killed so far this year in the City of Monroe — the worst record since 1966 when 16 persons were killed in city crashes. Most of the fatalities in 1966 happened on the Detroit-Toledo Expressway.

There have been 45 traffic fatalities so far this year in Monroe County. Last year by this date there had been 39 persons killed in accidents.

Friends may call after 5 p.m. tomorrow at the Earle Little Funeral Home. Services will be 1 p.m. Wednesday at the Union St. Baptist Church with the Rev. Sneed Massengill officiating. Burial will be in Roselawn Memorial Park Cemetery, La-Salle.

The son of Donald F. and Delia (Carroll) Drouillard, he was born July 3, 1954, in Monroe. He was a student at Monroe High School.

Surviving are his mother and stepfather, Mr. and Mrs. John Martin of Monroe; a brother, Frank Drouillard, and two stepbrothers, James and Samuel Martin, all of Monroe; three sisters, Susan, Nancy and Jennifer Drouillard, and a stepsister, Patricia Martin, all of Monroe, and his grandparents, Mrs. Bertha Carroll, of Keokee, Va., and Mr. and Mrs. Theodore Drouillard of Monroe.

He was preceded in death by his father, Donald F. Drouillard and a stepbrother.