

# Hayride Accident Fatal to Boy, 13

A Halloween hayride party ended in tragedy on a Brunswick town road about 8:15 p. m. Friday when a 13-year-old Eau Claire youth fell off a haywagon and was run over by the wheels of the wagon.

Richard Litchfield, son of Mr. and Mrs. Donald D. Litchfield of 8833 Halsey St., died of multiple head and body injuries at Luther Hospital two hours later.

Chief Investigator Roger T. Brown said a group of churches sponsored the hayride party which met at the YMCA and left by bus for the Royal Kjesbo farm on CTH Z in the Town of Brunswick. The Y was holding its annual costume Halloween party and some of these youths, including Litchfield, joined the church group on the bus. Brown said there was quite a bit of confusion involving the affair and some 140 youngsters ended up at the Kjesbo farm.

### Wagons in Tandem

Part of the group with their chaperons got on two wagons pulled in tandem by a tractor driven by Adrian D. Kjesbo, 18, Rt. 5. Some of the youths left behind in the farm yard cut across a field to join the wagon. In the investigation after the accident, some of the children told Brown that Litchfield, at the front of the second wagon, got up and tried to reach the first wagon, trying to get the driver to stop so his friend, Marjy Lenmark, could get on the wagon.

The youth slipped off the draw-bar of the wagon or fell when he attempted to jump over to the first wagon. All of the occupants of the wagons told Brown they felt a bump, but thought they had hit a chuck hole. An unidentified neighbor farmer found the boy lying unconscious on the road when he drove by a short time later.

Besides his parents, the youth is survived by two brothers, Fritz and Stephen, and his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. T. R. Litchfield Sr., Eau Claire. He was an eighth grade student at Central Junior High School.

Funeral services will be held Monday at 10:30 a. m. in Grace Lutheran Church, the Rev. Johan Thorson officiating. Burial will be in Forest Hill Cemetery.

Friends may call at Lenmark's Sunday from 9 to 8 p. m.

### 22nd Fatality

The boy's death marks the 22nd traffic fatality for Eau Claire county this year. Concerning the mounting traffic toll in the county this year, Brown said the only high he could recall was between May of 1946 and 1947

when the county had 26 traffic fatalities.

A Sparta man was injured late Friday night when he lost control of his northbound 1958 model car on Hy. 53 just south of the Hy. 50 intersection. The car went into the right ditch, crossed the highway, skidded on its front end and then rolled over, landing on its wheels.

John D. VanGroll, 27, was taken to Sacred Heart Hospital for treatment of injuries to his right knee, scalp lacerations and a bruised forehead. He was arrested for driving too fast for conditions. There was an estimated \$175 damages to his car.

A car driven by Sherman E. Beyl, 30, Rt. 1 Osseo, crossed the centerline on Hy. 53 a mile south of Brackett Friday evening and sideswiped two northbound cars, driven by Lee P. Hoveland, 37, Westby, and Lyle F. Rasmussen, 37, Baldwin.

There were no injuries. Damages to the vehicles totaled an estimated \$900.

# South Dakota to Imprison State Slayer

HURON, S.D. (UPI)—A Platteville, Wis., parole violator has been sentenced to 30 years at hard labor in the South Dakota state prison for the slaying of a Minneapolis insurance adjuster.

"I didn't mean to kill him," Murry J. Severns, 24, said when the sentence was imposed.

A month ago he pleaded guilty to a reduced charge of first degree manslaughter. Severns had pleaded innocent to lying unconscious on the road murder, but changed it when the possibility of a death sentence was dropped.

The bullet-riddled body of Loren Kettner, 31, was found in a watery ditch south of Huron June 22. Severns was arrested Aug. 19 in Pierre and charged with the crime.

Severns told authorities he jumped parole in mid-June from the Green Bay, Wis., Reformatory. The slender, six-foot drifter had served time on a larceny charge and had been paroled about three weeks.

Authorities said Kettner gave Severns a ride from New Ulm, Minn., to Huron. Just before they got to Huron, Severns fired a .22 caliber pistol, robbed Kettner of \$120 in cash and travelers checks, and shot him three times in the head, back and right arm.

"I just panicked," Severns told police.

Kettner's body was found in the ditch the next morning.

## Dangerous Trailers & Dangerous Hayrides Another Boy 13 Killed By Unsafe Hayride Eau Claire Leader, Wisconsin 1967 October 29

Clipped By:



dusterrm1  
Thu, Feb 16, 2017