

Joseph Decatur

(1881 – 7 Aug 1928)

Decatur, Joseph. Suddenly, on Tuesday, August 7, 1928, at Emergency Hospital, Joseph, son of the late Thomas and Jane Decatur. Funeral from the parlors of James T. Ryan, 317 Pa. ave. s.e., on Thursday, August 9, at 2 p.m. Relatives and friends invited.

The Evening Star, August 7, 1928, p. 6

Crushed To Death In Overturned Car

Joseph Decatur [sic] Attempts to Pass Trucks on Road Three Others Injured

Crushed beneath the steering wheel of his car, which overturned in a ditch on the Columbia pike near the radio station at Arlington, Va., about 6 o'clock yesterday evening. Joseph Decatur, 48, 109 Seventh street southeast, died early this morning at Emergency Hospital.

The three other occupants of the car were pinned beneath the machine, Mrs. John Cusick, 40, 1629 Gales street northeast, who was sitting in the front seat, may have a fractured jaw. She sustained lacerations and severe bruises on her face and right arm. Miss Jean Moore, 34, and Richard Cusick, 15-year-old son of Mrs. Cusick, both of the Gales street address, escaped with slight scratches and bruises. They were sitting on the rear seat.

35 Miles an Hour

Miss Moore said this morning Decatur was proceeding toward Washington at about 35 miles an hour. He swerved to the left to pass two large trucks. Just then he saw an automobile coming toward him from the opposite direction. He swerved far to the right to avoid a collision and ran into the ditch, his machine turning completely over.

The road was crowded at the time and it was only a matter of seconds before enough persons had gathered to drag the occupants clear.

Decatur and his three companions were hurried to Emergency Hospital. The three survivors returned home last night, but Mrs. Cusick's condition grew worse later in the evening and she was taken back to the hospital. Physicians there administered the serum for the prevention of tetanus.

Hurrying Home

The party left Washington about 1 o'clock yesterday afternoon to visit friends at Herndon, Va. Finding their time growing short, they turned back before reaching their destination and were hurrying home to be in time for dinner.

Decatur had been employed in the power shop at Union Station for several years. He is survived by a sister, Mr. Jack Hensley of Washington, and by four half brothers, T.M. Decatur, Cleveland Decatur and Morris Decatur of this city and Ralph Decatur of Baltimore, Md. He boarded at the Seventh street address with Mrs. W.W. Schwenk.