

CRASH FATAL TO FORMER SLATER MAN

Gladys Walton Also
In Jefferson City
Car Collision.

J. Luke Johnson, critically injured in an automobile crash in which seven young women employees at the state PERA offices here were injured, died at St. Mary's hospital at 4:30 o'clock yesterday afternoon. Johnson suffered a fractured skull and numerous body injuries. He was near death when brought to the hospital.

The accident occurred at noon yesterday when Johnson's car and another occupied by the young women crashed at the intersection of Ohio street and Highway 50.

Johnson who lived at 732 Ohio street, had just left his home and was on his way down town.

The PERA employees were in a car owned by John Drescher and driven by Margaret Harrell. Miss Harrell, accompanied by two companions, had driven out to the Musical Pig on Highway 50 to pick up four others who had had lunch at the place. They were returning on the highway at the time of the crash.

Occupants of Car

Those in the car with Miss Harrell were Helen Riley, Sallie McCreight, and Leona Gregory of Jefferson City; Hester Baker of Kansas City; Oleta Seymour of Moberly and Gladys Walton of Marshall.

Miss Harrell and two others, Misses Seymour and Walton, remained in the hospital last night. They suffered cuts about the head and bruises but none was severely hurt. Miss Walton suffered a broken finger. The other four were badly shaken and suffered slight cuts.

Witnesses were undecided as to the cause of the crash. Several of the young women said the Johnson car loomed up in front of them and the crash followed. That was all they could say. Several other persons, who heard tires of the cars sliding on the pavement turned in time to see the crash could shed little other information on the tragedy.

Miss Harrell said she swerved the car in an effort to avoid striking the Johnson car and nearly ran off the pavement but the other car kept on coming.

Stop a Question

Some questioned whether Johnson had made the stop before driving on the highway but several of his friends insisted that he must have. He went that same route hundreds of times, one person said, and he never failed to stop.

Those in the car, however, said they did not see him until the car reached the highway.

The car occupied by the young women skidded more than a hundred feet before it came to a stop. Johnson's car crashed against a post on the west side of the street. Both machines were demolished.

Johnson was unconscious when taken to the hospital.

Wife Survives

He is survived by his wife, three brothers and three sisters. His wife is the former Stella Seymour. The brothers are W. G. Johnson of Arlington, Tex., Walter of Kansas City and Charles of Fairfax, Mo. The sisters are Mrs. Molly Adair of Prairie Home, Mrs. A. L. Dots of Kansas City and Mrs. Mabel Fields of Marshall, Mo.

Johnson was born at Slater, Mo., and came to Jefferson City more than thirty-five years ago. He had been employed at the Missouri river highway bridge since the highway department took over the span. He recently had remodeled his home on Ohio street and was going down town to pick out some light fixtures at the time the accident occurred.

Funeral arrangements had not been made last night.

Mr. Johnson was well known in Jefferson City. He was active in Masonic circles and was a Shriner.