

Billie Jean Callison

Jun. 29, 1943 - Nov. 21, 1959

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Crash Kills 3 Albany Teen - Car, Truck Collide on Boulevard Here

A spectacular head-on collision killed three Albany teenagers late Saturday night when their car careened into the path of an oncoming semi-truck and trailer on Pacific Boulevard near the railroad overpass.

Dead are Larry Clayton McDow, 18, 300 S. Davidson St., driver of the car; Theodore B. Volz Jr., 18, Rt. 3 and Billie Jean Callison, 16, 3535 Knox Butte Rd. They were Linn County's 22nd, 23rd, and 24th traffic fatalities of the year. Police said they thought McDow was driving, with the Callison girl sitting between the two youths.

The semi-truck weight made a shambles of the 1958 sedan driven by McDow. The bodies of McDow and the girl could not be removed for an hour, as cutting torches couldn't be used for fear of fire from spilled gasoline. Police said the semi-truck, operated by Duane W. Rouse, 27, Philomath, was going north and was nearing the foot of the overpass near Thurston Street. The truck was in the right hand lane of the two northbound lanes.

Crossed Divider

McDow was going south at a "high rate of speed," according to police. He came up behind two traveling side by side in the two lanes headed south. Police said his car swerved to the left behind the cars, crossed the center stripe divider and the first northbound lane, colliding head-on with the big truck. The Truck was buckled as it attempted to halt. One of the front tires nearly rode over the sedan, tearing off the top of the car. Volz was thrown from the car. Fredericksen ambulance rushed him to Albany General Hospital but he died soon after arrival. The other two were killed instantly.

The accident filled the street with gasoline. Firemen were called to stand-by and on several occasions had to stop fires which kept igniting as rescuers removed the bodies as the two vehicles were pulled apart. Traffic on the busy street was rerouted around the accident scene.

Employed at Mills

Volz and McDow were both employed at plywood mills, Volz graduated from Albany Union High school last spring and was vice president of the student body. He also played football and was a member of the track team. McDow quit high school in his senior year. Like the other two, he had lived in Albany most of his young life.

Miss Callison was a junior at Albany High. Her father, Sylvester Callison, was killed in a construction accident at Brookings, Aug. 28, 1958. Miss Callison was born June 29, 1943, at Tucumcari, N. M. She came to Albany in 1945 with her parents. Her survivors are her mother, Nadine Callison, Albany; a brother, Johnny, at the family home; a grandmother, Mrs. Gertrude Jones, Albany; grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Calison, Tucumcari, N. M., and a great-grandmother, Mrs. Mollie Straton, Albany. Her services will be Wednesday at 1:30 p.m. at Fortmiller-Fredericksen funeral home, with the Rev. William H. Burcham of the Church of Christ officiating. Burial will be in Willamette Memorial church.

Ted Volz was born Jan. 7, 1941, at Portland. He also lived in Texas and Philomath before coming to Albany eight years ago. He was employed at Hub City plywood. Survivors are his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Theodore B. Volz Sr., Albany; a brother, Charles, age 11; two sisters, Debra, age 3, and Mrs. Shirley Bilyeu, all of Albany; his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Volz, Tigard, and Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Pierce, Portland. His services will be Tuesday at 2:30 p.m. at Fortmiller-Fredericksen funeral home. Burial will be in Twin Oaks Memorial Gardens.