

## **One Killed, Another Hurt In Car-Pedestrian Mishap**

Hugo Daily News, date unknown

contributed by Billie Cencarik, transcribed by Ron Henson

A 45 - year - old Fort Towson man, Otis McCormack, was killed Monday night in a car-pedestrian accident at the south edge of Hugo.

The driver of the car, 36 year-old Jim Saunders of Hugo, was critically injured and was transferred to University Hospital in Oklahoma City after emergency treatment at Memorial Hospital here.

Saunders suffered fractures of both legs and arms and internal injuries when his car struck a parked semi-trailer truck before hitting McCormack and then collided with an auto and a pickup truck which were also parked.

The accident occurred about 10:45 p.m. on "the strip," a row of taverns along US 271 inside the city limits and was still under investigation this morning by city officers who were joined by the highway patrol.

Policeman Leroy Cline, who made the initial investigation of the accident with policeman Jim Duncan, said McCormack had just come out of the Guys and Dolls tavern and was walking north on private property when he was struck by the car driven by Saunders.

Cline said the Saunders car left US271 after rounding a curve headed north. The car struck the cab of a semi-trailer truck parked off the highway along the strip before striking McCormack, who apparently died instantly, and then collided with the other two vehicles.

The driver of the truck, which was unoccupied, was James Thomas Brand Jr., 21, of Starkville Miss.

The impact ruptured the gas tank on the truck and firemen were called as a precautionary measure. Brand estimated damage to his truck at \$3,000.

The other two vehicles the Saunders car struck, a GMC pickup and a 1965 Ford, were parked in front of the Guys and Dolls tavern. Cline said the vehicles belonged to Fred Miller, who operates the tavern. Damage to the two vehicles totaled an estimated [unreadable] to \$300.

The Saunders car was a total loss.

Lampton Funeral Home dispatched ambulances to the scene and later took Saunders to Oklahoma City.

Saunders is employed by a freight delivery firm here and also operates the Thunderbird Cafe which is located along the strip.

McCormack was a disabled World War II air force veteran and had lived at Fort Towson the past two years, making his home with his mother, Mrs. Laura McCormack.

He is also survived by these brothers and sisters: Mrs. John Vanhooose of Fort Towson, Mrs. Cora Case of Clayton, Mrs. Moselle Stone, Miss Ozelle McCormack and Mrs. Oweta Melborne, all of Oklahoma City; and Albert, Roy and Lloyd McCormack, all of Sardis.

He was single and was born Jan. 3, 1922.  
Services are pending with Coffey Funeral Home.