

The Frederick Post

MARCH 28, 1969

FREDERICK COUNTY, MARYLAND

2 Myersville Firemen Die In Car Crash

MYERSVILLE — Two Myersville Volunteer Fire Company firemen were killed in a dead-center, head-on collision of two cars on Easterday Road Friday evening as one car headed towards a fire and the other towards the firehouse.

The bizarre collision claimed the lives of Gaither R. Frushour, 40, of Myersville, and John F. Harp, 39, of RFD 2, Myersville. State Police said the accident occurred at 5:15 p.m. when the car being driven west on Easterday Road by Frushour responding to a grass fire at the Samuel Flooks residence on Boonsboro Mt. Road collided at the crest of the hill near Church Hill Road with the car being driven east by Harp.

Police said Harp had heard the fire alarm and was on his way to the firehouse to find out where the fire was.

The two cars, according to police, collided in the middle of the roadway. Trooper Franklin Milburn, who investigated, said the cars hit absolutely dead center, with the front ends of both cars folding up like accordians. He said the cars stopped instantly apparently without spinning an inch.

The drivers were apparently killed by impact with the steering wheels. Neither was thrown from the car.

The bodies were taken to Frederick Memorial Hospital by the Myersville

ambulance where the victims were pronounced dead by county medical examiner R. J. Thomas.

The deaths were the eighth and ninth road fatalities of the year in the county. The fatal accident was the seventh of the year. State Police said this figure is slightly behind last year's total.

The grass fire was reported by a spokesman for the Myersville Fire Co. as being a minor fire which was quickly brought under control.

2 Firemen Killed In Car Crash

MYERSVILLE — Two Myersville neighbors died Friday afternoon in a head-on collision on Easterday Road, two miles west of here, as they responded to a volunteer fire company alarm.

Gaither Frushour, 40, and John F. Harp, 37, the drivers of the two vehicles, were pronounced dead at the scene by Frederick County Medical Examiner, Robert J. Thomas Jr. about 5 p.m.

Dr. Thomas said both victims died of crushed chests and multiple lacerations.

According to state police, both vehicles were apparently too close to the center of the road as they approached the crest of a hill. Police said obstruction of visibility was not a factor in the crash.

Funeral arrangements are still pending.

The Valley Register

APRIL 4, 1969

MIDDLETOWN, MARYLAND

Funeral Rites Held For Two Firemen Killed Friday In Head-On Collision

Residents of the Myersville community were deeply shocked and saddened by a motor vehicle accident last Friday, March 28, 1969, which took the lives of two of its well-known citizens.

The men, active members of the Myersville Volunteer Fire Company, were killed in a dead-center, head-on collision of their two cars on Easterday Road, only a short distance outside the town's municipal limits.

The bizarre collision claimed the lives of Gaither R. Frushour, 40, and John F. Harp, 39, both of whom lived not far from the point where the tragedy occurred.

According to State Police, the crash took place about 5:15 p.m. when the car being driven west on Easterday Road by Frushour collided at the crest of the hill with the auto being driven east by Harp.

Frushour was responding to a grass fire at the Samuel Flook residence at the time of the accident. Harp had heard the fire alarm and was on his way to the firehouse to find out where the blaze was.

The two cars collided in the middle of the roadway. Trooper Franklin Milburn, who investigated, said the cars hit absolutely dead center, with the front ends of both cars folding up like accordions. He said the cars stopped instantly apparently without spinning an inch.

The drivers were apparently killed by impact with the steering wheels. Neither was thrown from the car.

The bodies were taken to Frederick Memorial Hospital by the Myersville ambulance where the victims were pronounced dead there by County Medical Examiner R. J. Thomas.

The grass fire was reported by a spokesman for the Myersville Fire Co. as being a minor blaze which was brought quickly under control.

Funeral Rites

Mr. Harp was born in Myersville and was a son of J. Frank and Leona E. Cross Harp. He was a member of Mt. Zion United Methodist Church, Myersville, and of the Myersville fire company. He was employed by

the Todd Steel Company at Point of Rocks.

He is survived by his parents and a number of cousins.

Funeral rites were conducted from the Bittle Funeral Home, Myersville, Monday morning at 11 o'clock with Rev. Monroe J. Shearer, Jr., pastor of the deceased, officiating. Internment was made in Mt. Zion United Methodist Church Cemetery, Myersville. Paul F. Bittle, funeral director.

Honorary pallbearers were fellow firemen of the Myersville Volunteer Fire Company, neighboring companies, and representatives of state and county firemen's associations.

Active pallbearers were Richard Lewis, Donald Lewis, Danny Bowman, Harry M. Harp, James T. Harp and Richard D. Harp.

Mr. Frushour, a native of the Myersville community, was the son of Ralph B. Frushour, Myersville, Rt. 1, and the late Mrs. Erma Gaver Frushour. He was a member of the Grossnickles Church of the Brethren, near Ellerton, and the Myersville fire company. He was employed by Lewis Brothers Building Contractors, Smithsburg.

Besides his father, he is survived by his wife, Mrs. Margaret Turner Frushour; two sons, Paul and Douglas Frushour, both at home; four sisters, Mrs. Irene Smith, of Myersville; Mrs. Pauline Baker, of Frederick; Mrs. Ruth Ann Cassell, of Braddock Heights, and Mrs. Betty Jane Hays, near Middletown; two brothers, Richard C. and Clarence H. Frushour, both of Myersville, Route 1.

Funeral services were held from the Bittle Funeral Home, Myersville, on Monday afternoon at 2:00 o'clock. Rev. Monroe J. Shearer, Jr., officiated, assisted by Rev. Clyde Hylton. Internment was made in Mt. Zion United Methodist Cemetery, Myersville.

Honorary pallbearers were fellow firemen from the Myersville fire company, neighboring companies, and representatives from county and state associations.

Active pallbearers were W. Melvin Lewis, Jesse E. Lewis, Charles Frye, Virgil A. Harne, Kenneth R. Brandenburg and Gordon L. Lushbaugh.