

VIGIL, ROSE ANN  
1949-October 18, 1969

Three young sisters died a tragic death early Saturday morning, Oct. 18, near Rubidoux, California, when the car in which they were riding with their dates, all airmen from March Air Force Base, flipped upside down in an irrigation canal, and the 47-inch deep water came in through windows and broken windshield. The two-door hardtop sedan was wedged so tightly in the bevel-shaped concrete ditch that the doors could not be opened although they could have escaped easily had the car been right side up.

Those who died were Rose Ann Vigil, 20; Mary Margaret Vigil, 19; Kathy Lucille Vigil, 17; Richard Spoonamore, 19, Renton, Wash.; Donald Stolarick, 20, Chicago, Ill.; and John C. Rumble, 19, Canton, Ohio.

The three young men picked the girls up at their home late Friday night. They drove to an orange grove and were proceeding along a dirt road parallel to the canal when the driver apparently failed to negotiate a slight turn. The car slipped onto a 60-degree embankment, toppled over and settled on its top.

It was reported that none of them were hurt badly in the fall in the canal, but all must have died horribly in the canal by drowning. The wristwatch of one of the girls had stopped at 12:25 a.m. A canal maintenance employee discovered the car at 6:50 a.m. Five bodies were in the car. The sixth that of John Rumble, believed to be the driver, was found 700 feet downstream where his body had drifted through the windshield.

The girls' parents are Mr. and Mrs. Juan Vigil of Wheatland. The girls were all students at schools in Riverside, Calif., and the parents had gone out to spend the winter with them. Mr. Vigil works in the mines at Sunrise while living in Wheatland.

The girls were born and raised in the Wheatland community. They had attended Wheatland and were affiliated with the Catholic Church.

Rosary services will be held Friday evening, Oct. 24, at the Schrader Chapel at 7:30 p.m. Funeral services will be held Saturday, Oct. 25, at 10:00 a.m. at the St. Patrick's Church with Father Bartol Svete officiating. Interment will be in the Wheatland Cemetery. Serving as pallbearers are: Dick Runyon, Doug Runyon, Harvey Runyon, Junior Martinez, Owen Toth, Oscar Booth, Craig Needles, James Harris, John Harris, Charles Maes, Fred Vigil, Gabriel Salazar, Able Salazar, Terry Perdue, Dennis Becker, Sam Vigil and Tony Vigil.

Besides their parents, survivors include Brothers, Louis Vigil, Riverside, Calif.; Alfred Vigil, Davis, Calif.; George Vigil, Wheatland; sisters, Mrs. Emma Booth, Vacaville, Calif.; Mrs. Josie Rodriguez, San Jose, Calif.; Mrs. Alice Romero, Cheyenne; and Mrs. Elsie Needles, Salem, Oregon.