

Hills man dies in crash on snow-covered road

By Diane Gale
staff writer

A Farmington Hills man died in one of two serious accidents on snow-covered roads in Canton earlier this week.

Billy Frank McClain, 64, was alone in his car driving south on Lilley Road north of Ford Road about 8:44 a.m. Tuesday when he apparently lost control of his 1990 Dodge Omni and crossed the center line, police said.

The car slid into the path of a 1988 pickup truck going north and driven by a 35-year-old Canton man, James Lee Garcia. The truck hit the Omni broadside on the passenger side, police said.

McClain, who was wearing his seat belt at the time of the accident, was taken to Annapolis Hospital in Wayne, where he was pronounced dead at 12:10 p.m.

IN ANOTHER accident at about 9 a.m. Monday, a 23-year-old Westland woman, Shawn Marie Stropka, was driving a 1988 Ford Fiesta west on Ford Road when she apparently lost control of her car, crossed the center line and was struck by a 1982 Ford pickup driven by Peter Kyriuk, 39.

Kyriuk was with his 44-year-old brother when the pickup truck he was driving struck the passenger side of the Fiesta, police said.

All three people were taken to St. Joseph Hospital,

Ypsilanti. The two men were treated and released. Stropka was in serious condition earlier this week.

Stropka, who was alone in the car, was wearing a seat belt. Neither man in the pickup was wearing a seat belt, police said.

THE ACCIDENTS Monday and Tuesday were a "direct result of the weather conditions and probably wouldn't have happened if the roads weren't bad," said Pat Nemecek, Canton police spokesman.

"People have to drive according to conditions," Nemecek said. "It takes a while for everyone to get used to driving under these road conditions. The best advice is to drive slowly."

Tuesday's accident pushed the number of fatalities on Canton roads this year to 12.

The other accidents were a double fatality Nov. 1 when a pickup truck collided with a semi-truck on Michigan Avenue near I-275. A 34-year-old Detroit man was killed Oct. 30 when he failed to stop for a flashing red light and was hit on Warren near Sheldon.

Other accidents were at Ford Road and I-275 Jan. 8; at Lilley Road and Michigan Avenue March 11; at Michigan and Lotz Road March 19; at Ford and Lilley May 14; Michigan and Belleville June 29; Canton Center and Geddes July 2; Haggerty and Cherry Hill July 10 and Haggerty and Cherry Hill Aug. 25.

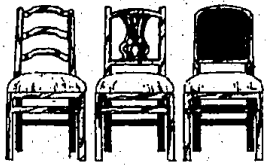


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SHARON LAMIEUX/staff photographer



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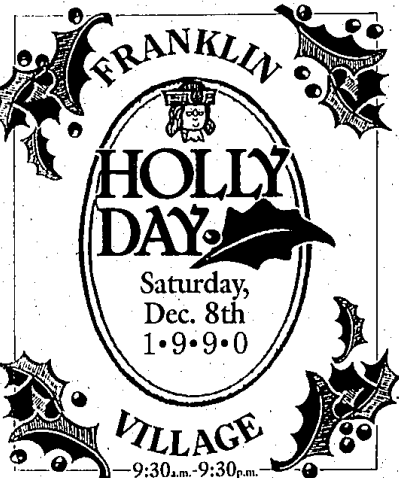


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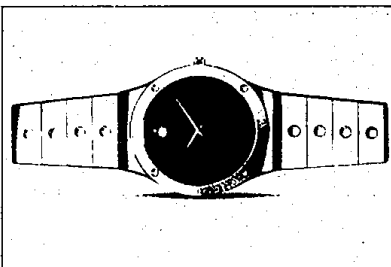
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