

DECATUR LIBRARY OBIT BOOKS, Adams County, Indiana

SAWDUST VICTIM'S RITES THURSDAY

Funeral services for Darrell DeLynn Roop, 16, on route 2, Ohio City, Ohio, who died of suffocation while he was working in a sawdust bin at Decatur Industries early Tuesday afternoon, will be conducted a 1:30 p.m. Thursday in the Winteregg-Linn and Haggard Funeral Home. Rev. John Richardson and Rev. George Rhodifer will officiate at the services and burial will be in the Decatur Cemetery. Friends may call at the funeral home after 2 p.m. today.

Company officials said, today that the young man, a part-time employee, died as a mountain of sawdust fell on top of him. He was taken to the Adams County Memorial Hospital after rescue workers were unable to revive him. He was pronounced dead on arrival. Adams County Coroner Dick Linn said, the cause of death was suffocation. Mr. Roop was working in a sawdust bin when the tragedy occurred. It was reported that he was inside the silo using a shovel to move sawdust into an auger which transported the sawdust into the plant's furnace in order to heat the building. The incident occurred at 11:55 a.m. and the body was discovered in the silo at 12:40 p.m.

Decatur policemen, firemen, Monroe Rescue Department personnel, Decatur Industries employees and others searched for the young man in the silo, which stands 40 to 50 feet high and is approximately 15 feet in diameter. The sawdust was very slippery to walk on and extremely thick, and firemen had to use oxygen masks to work inside the silo. An official of Decatur Industries reported that this was the first fatality at the plant in the Industrial Park.

Mr. Roop was a junior at Parkway High School in Rockford, Ohio, and attended the Greenbrier United Brethren in Christ Church. He was born in Decatur on February 26, 1960. Survivors include the parents, Mr. and Mrs. James Werst; two sisters, Theresa Werst and Starla Werst, both at home; one brother, Eric Roop, at home and the maternal grandmother, Mrs. Dorothy Roop of Decatur.