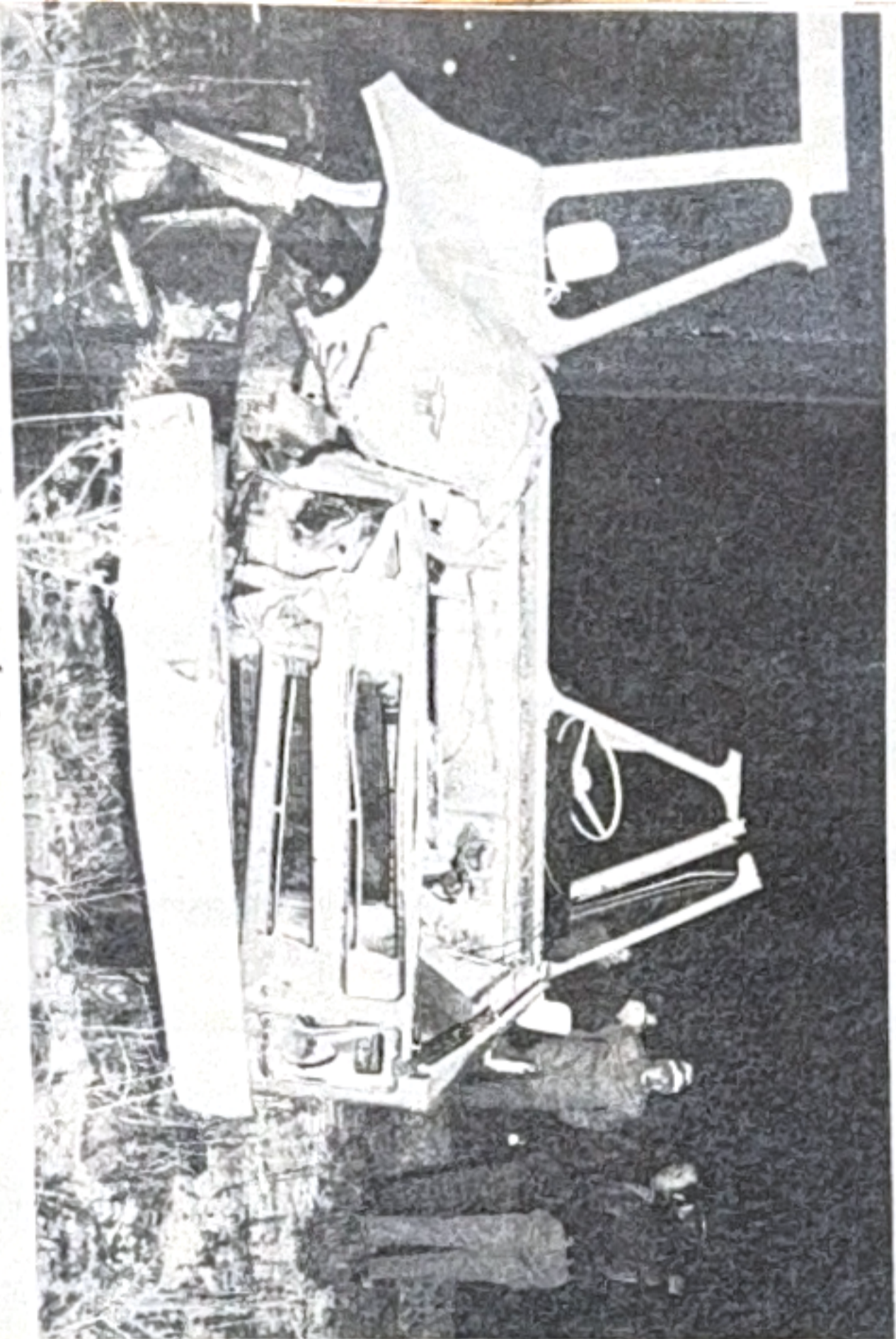


Youth killed when train hits van



Train hits van

The front end was all that remained of a step-van hit by an Amtrak passenger train in The Pines Saturday night. Fifteen-year-old John Wuerzburger, 1222 Hoyt St., was riding in the rear of the van and was killed. The driver is hospitalized in LaPorte. (News-Dispatch photo by Bill Swedenberg)

A Michigan City youth was killed Saturday night when a passenger train hit a van in which he was riding. The van was hit by an Amtrak passenger train in The Pines.

Also over the weekend, four other youth were injured near Laporte. The youth were injured yesterday noon when their car was hit by a Grand Truck Leight train.

Killed in the 5 p.m. Saturday accident in The Pines was John Wuerzburger, 15, 1222 Hoyt St. He was a ninth grade student at Barker Junior High School and son of the owner of Nason's Appliance Center, 1800 E. U.S. 20.

The driver of the Nason's delivery truck, 20-year-old Jeff Reynolds, 7033 N. Wilhelm Road, LaPorte, was treated and released for cuts and bruises at St. Anthony Hospital. Later, Reynolds was admitted to LaPorte Hospital where glass was found in his back. He is in good condition today.

The accident occurred at an unmarked crossing on a private road over the Penn Central Railroad tracks, near the Vernier Chisel Co. Visibility is poor, a nearby road said, because of trees, a curve in the road and an incline at the crossing.

Reynolds and Wuerzburger were delivering a stove and oven from Nason's to the Herbert George residence, just outside The Pines. State police said Reynolds apparently did not see the eastbound train. The front of the train clipped the rear of the step-van truck, de-

molled by the truck, except for the front. Wuerzburger was riding in the rear.

Herbert principal Robert Dillon said Wuerzburger was "a real nice kid" everybody liked him. "The youth was on the school's football and wrestling teams and was on the track team last year. He had turned both years in football and planned to go on to college a course of the youth's said. (Continued on page 14.)

In the Union Mills accident, Arthur Bryman, 41, 2112 W. Marshall rd. sheriff's police boy as driving west of County Road 100 and looked in the right of the Grand Truck Leight when his wife shouted that a train was coming from the left.



JOHN WUERZBURGER
...killed in accident

John Wuerzburger

Funeral service for John David Wuerzburger, 15, 1222 Hoyt St., will be tomorrow at 1 p.m. at Carlisle Funeral Home with the Rev. Dr. David L. Thomas officiating.

The youth, a ninth grade student at Barker Junior High School, was killed at 5 p.m. Saturday (Dec. 20, 1975) in a train-truck accident in The Pines. (Story on Page 21).

Friends may call at the funeral home today after 3 p.m. and tomorrow until the service. Burial will be in Greenwood Cemetery. Pallbearers will be Wayne and Tim Lewis, Terry Rosalik, Todd Allgood, Tim Nelson, Bobby VanScyoc and Keith Jones.

The deceased was born in Galesburg, Ill., Oct. 18, 1960, the son of Harold E. and Janet A. (Hoyt) Wuerzburger, both of whom survive.

Also surviving are two sisters and a brother — Mrs. Jeff (Gay) Reynolds, LaPorte; and Aimee and Hoyt Wuerzburger, both at home, and grandparents — Mrs. Kathryn Jason, Lacon, Ill.; and Mrs. Sylvia Hoyt and Harold E. Wuerzburger, both of Galesburg, Ill.

He was a member of the football and wrestling teams at Barker Junior High School.