

P.O. BOX 1017
SANTA BARBARA, CALIF.

S.M. Catholic Priest Loses Life In Car, Cycle Collision

Rider In Auto Injured

A 34-year-old Santa Maria Catholic priest sustained fatal injuries early this morning when his motorcycle collided with a car on East Main Street.

The Rev. Richard A. Hartman, who has been at St. Mary's Catholic Church about two years, died at 5:05 a.m. at Sister's Hospital, about three hours after the accident.

City police reported Father Hartman was westbound on Main, coming from the direction of the freeway, when a car driven by Jacqueline G. Welch, 34, of 908-B S. Railroad, attempted a left turn into a driveway of the Nite-Cap Motel. The Welch car had been traveling east on Main Street.

The motorcycle's front wheel was crumpled by the impact. It was reported Father Hartman was returning from an outing and day off when the accident occurred.

Mrs. Welch sustained minor injuries and was taken to Valley Community hospital where she was treated and released. A passenger in her car, identified as Andrew Wheeler, was not injured.

Captain Charles Denmun of the Santa Maria Police Department said today the accident is still under investigation. When all available information is compiled, it will be presented to deputy district attorney Charles Patrick for evaluation. It is not known if any traffic violations were involved, at this time.

Father Hartman had been given a day off Thursday and he had evidently been on an excursion on his motorcycle.

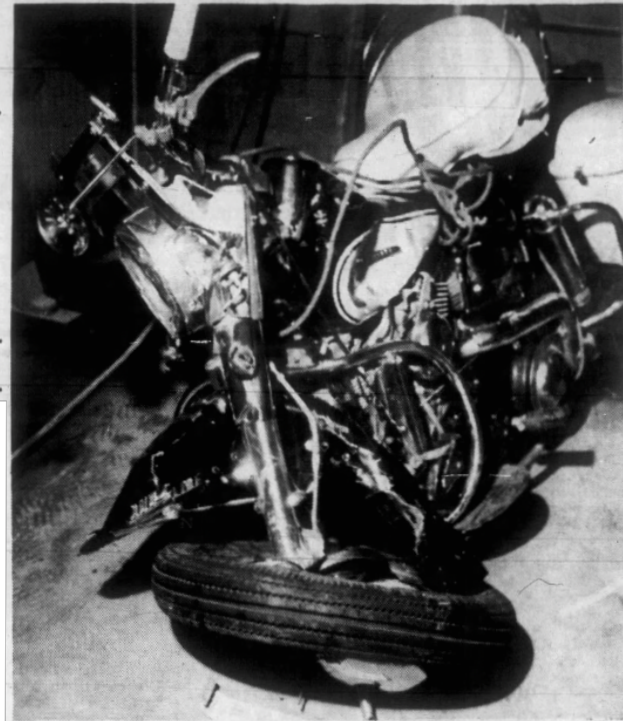
Funeral arrangements are pending at the Magner Funeral Home. Father Hartman was born July 10, 1930.

SANTA MARIA  **TIMES**
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SANTA MARIA, CALIF.,

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Crumpled Cycle in Death Crash

This large motorcycle was being driven by the Rev. Father Richard A. Hartman of St. Mary's Catholic Church at 2:13 a.m. today when it collided with a car on

Main Street. Fr. Hartman sustained fatal injuries. Crumpled wheel indicates force of impact --

Times Photo