

## Juanita Blasdell, 15, of Lake Hughes, Is Accident Victim

Pretty High School Student  
Killed Crossing Road from Bus

Fifteen-year-old Juanita Blasdell, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. L. L. Blasdell of Lake Hughes, was struck by a car Friday night while crossing the highway at Honby, and was injured to such extent that she died early Sunday morning without regaining consciousness.

Juanita, a sophomore at Antelope Valley Joint Union High School, was returning from a trip to the city, made with members of the Honor Society of the school, and had alighted from the school bus driven by Neil Bowser, just a few moments before the tragic accident occurred. The southbound car which struck her was driven by Lynn Sanborn, 12331 Sylvan St., North Hollywood, a representative of the State Department of Agriculture. At an inquest conducted at 10:30 Tuesday morning at Paschall's Mortuary at San Fernando, by Deputy Coroner Pierce Kane, a jury returned the verdict that the girl's death was accidental and no blame could be fixed.

Funeral services were held Wednesday morning, December 14, at 11:00 at Mumaw's Funeral Home Chapel in Lancaster, and the funeral was one of the largest ever held in the Valley. Rev. Boyd Parker officiated, and was assisted by girls of the Order of the Rainbow, of which Juanita was a member. School friends of Juanita attended in a body. A group of school boys served as pall bearers, including: Milton High, Vernon Lewis, Leland King, Curt Ullman, Lester Pagliuso, and Earl Miller, Junior. Burial was at the Lancaster Cemetery.

The accident happened at about 11:00 o'clock Friday night at Honby, at which point the school bus was stopped and Juanita was permitted to get off to meet her parents who were attending a party at a Honby residence, information disclosed at the inquest stated. A truck was some distance back of the bus, and Juanita must have become confused watching its approaching lights and thus stepped into the path of the city-bound car driven by Mr. Sanborn. Mr. Sanborn reported that he did not see the girl until he was too close to avoid hitting her, and he did swerve his car so that only the left fender and door handle struck her. Mr. Bowser had just started the bus in motion when he saw the car swerve in his rear view mirror, and he stopped the bus again to investigate. The unconscious girl was taken to the Newhall Community Hospital, and her death occurred there at 3:00 Sunday morning.

Blanche Juanita Blasdell was born July 12, 1938, at Lancaster, and had lived all of her short life in the Valley. She was a very pretty and sweet girl, deservedly popular with all who knew her.

Her grief-stricken parents and three older brothers, Milton, Harry and Lorne, besides several other relatives, and a host of friends, mourn her death.