

## Five Drown In Branch Of Boyne Near Beeton

The branch of the Boyne River which crosses the road into Beeton, west of No. 27 Highway, was, like all other streams of the district, swollen to danger proportions last Friday night and at this point a terrific toll in lives was taken. Five bodies have been recovered and some neighbours fear that there may be more.

The following is the story as told by Jackson Glassford, a nearby farmer, who tried in vain to rescue the victims:

"Just as the last one was getting in the boat, a wave hit it and turned it over. We lost all four in the darkness," stated Glassford, thus describing the loss of Mr. and Mrs. Otto Haugh, Haugh's uncle John, all of Egbert, and a friend, Robert Edgar of Baxter, in the Boyne River.

The Haugh car was swept off the little bridge on the road to Bradford. The driver and his three passengers managed to cling to the overturned vehicle for nearly four hours in the cold waters, only to lose their lives when the boat which was floated out to them on the end of a rope by Glassford and other rescue workers capsized.

"We had just about rescued them," Glassford said. "We had tried to reach them with a boat and 175 feet of cable, but it wouldn't reach.

"We got another 25 feet and we all felt better when they grasped the boat. My son, Allan, was in the water up to his neck guiding the tow line. But then they were swept away."

Ervin Joyce, 22, of Beeton, earlier was lost in the waters which rushed across the bridge as he attempted to warn the Haughs of the danger. His own car had stalled and he got out on the bridge. The Boyne swept him and his car away.

Death came within an ace of taking four more lives at the tragedy-ridden bridge, when a car from Barrie with four unidentified occupants was also pushed off the road by the waters.

By a near miracle the bumper of the car caught on a tree at the edge of the road and held it until a rescue team headed by Glassford managed to get them off by rope.