

Jury awards couple \$1 million

WAR Staff Report

DECATUR — A Decatur couple won a \$1 million damage award Friday from a Macon County Circuit Court jury for injuries suffered June 21, 2003, in a vehicular accident on Illinois 48 two miles south of Boody.

Dorothy Frischkorn, 64, suffered a cutting of her optic nerve, blinding her in the left eye, as a result of the crash. The jury awarded her \$955,000.

Her husband, Van "Dick" Frischkorn, was awarded \$45,000 for his injuries.

Defendant in the case was Bob Ridings Ford Inc. of Taylorville.

The Frischkorns' attorney, William Faber of Decatur, said evidence at trial showed the couple was southbound on their way to a child's birthday

party when they slowed to make a left turn off Illinois 48 onto Rosedale Road. He said a Ford F-350 pickup truck owned and operated by the Ridings dealership attempted to pass the Frischkorns' vehicle, slamming into it as Van Frischkorn made a left turn.

Dorothy Frischkorn was a licensed practical nurse on the pediatric floor of Decatur Memorial Hospital, and the eye injury ended her career, Faber said. She had 20/200 vision in her right eye before the accident. She no longer can focus her vision and is legally blind, he said.

Ridings had countersued Van Frischkorn, contending he was partly at fault for the accident. The jury found Frischkorn was not negligent in the operation of his vehicle.