

Mr. and Mrs. Russell Fish Die In Auto Crash In Minnesota

7-17-1940
A tragic automobile accident claimed the lives of both Mr. and Mrs. A. R. Fish, long time Wheatland residents, on Friday morning, July 17 near Albert Lea, Minn. They were returning home from a visit with their son, Dr. Charles (Puck) T. Fish and his family at Rochester, Minn., when the Fish vehicle collided with a truck at an intersection.

Mrs. Fish died instantly at the scene of the accident, and her husband died shortly after the crash in the Albert Lea hospital. A grandson was also injured and was hospitalized for observation. A granddaughter who was also riding in the car was unhurt.

The coroner at the scene placed the blame for the accident on the Minnesota Highway Dept. for not erecting a stop sign at the intersection.

Memorial services were held at 11:00 a.m. on July 23, (today) at the Methodist church in Wheatland, with Rev. Howard L. Wilson officiating. The remains were interred in the Wheatland cemetery.

Elberta Elizabeth Tschiffely

was born Dec. 2, 1899 in Washington, D. C. where she received her early education. In 1920 she came west to attend Colorado State University in Fort Collins. While at the university she met Russell Fish of Wheatland, also a student, and they were married here on Jan. 3, 1923 at the home of Russell's uncle, Dr. Charles E. Fish.

Mrs. Fish returned to Colorado State after her two oldest daughters were born, and was graduated from the School of Home Economics in 1927. That same year the family moved to Wheatland where Russell went into business in the O K Dairy.

Mrs. Fish was a past president and charter member of Chapter R, PEO Sisterhood and also Chapter 11, Order of Eastern Star. She twice served as president of the Wheatland Study Club, of which she was one of the original members. She was a member of All Saints Episcopal Church and Guild.

Elberta was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Clifton L. Tschiffely of Washington, D. C. Before his retirement, her father operated Tschiffely Druggists, a

wholesale company established in Washington by his forebears more than a century before.

Arthur Russell Fish was born May 18, 1897 in Mediapolis, Ia. When his father, H. T. Fish sold his drugstore there, Russell moved with his family in 1912 to a farm on the Wheatland Flats, northwest of Wheatland.

Russell attended high school in Wheatland, graduating in 1915. He went to Colorado State University in 1915, leaving college to enlist in the U. S. Army, where he served as first lieutenant for the duration of World War I. After completing his education in 1923, he was employed with creameries and dairy products, serving as a member of the Dairy Commission of Colorado.

After operating the O K Dairy here since 1927, Russell sold the business to accept a 1935 appointment as postmaster. He resigned this post in 1953 when appointed a rural mail carrier. He retired in 1967, and at the time of his death he was treasurer of the Rural Carriers Assn.

Mr. Fish was a past master of Blue Lodge No. 16, AF & AM of Wheatland, and served as secretary for several years. At the time of his death he was treasurer of the lodge and of the other Masonic orders to which he belonged. He was a member of HYCH Adoniram Council No. 7 of Wheatland, Sybille Chapter No. 19, RAM, Platte Commandery No. 17, Knight Templar and Thrice Illustrious Masters.

Russell was the son of Mr. and Mrs. H. T. Fish. His father, whom everyone knew as "H. T." was a pioneer pharmacist of Iowa and Wyoming. Besides his parents he was preceded in death by a brother, Brown A. Fish of Wheatland.

Elberta and Russell are survived by three daughters: Mrs. Donald Fancher of Denver, Colo.; Mrs. Harold W. Poehlmann of Fort Collins, Colo.; Mrs. Louis Shilt of Laramie and one son, Dr. Charles Russell Fish of Rochester, Minn. and 13 grandchildren. Elberta leaves a sister, Mrs. Raymond T. Moyer of Sabillasville, Md. and a brother, Frederick A. Tschiffely of Thermopolis. Russell is survived by a brother, Howard H. Fish of Wheatland.