

SMITH, KEITH
April 28, 1921-March 29, 1942

Word was received in Wheatland late Saturday night of the accidental death of Keith Smith, son of Mrs. Eva Smith, in an automobile wreck near Yoder.

Nothing very definite can be learned of the tragedy except that Keith, who had been attending a welding school in Torrington, and another boy were out riding and in passing another car, had crashed into a tree. Both were seriously injured and taken to the Torrington hospital where Keith died before his folks from here could reach his bedside.

Funeral services will be held at two o'clock this afternoon from the Watson and Dennis funeral home.

NEWS ITEM: The above illustrations show two views of the car in which Keith Smith was killed Saturday night near Yoder.

The car, a 1935 Plymouth sedan was owned and driven by Charles Smith of Torrington who had met Keith on the street and asked him to ride to Yoder with him. The two boys, no relation, were classmates in the welding school and well acquainted.

The pictures were taken by P.C. Carmine, State highway patrolman, who investigated the wreck and had charge of removing the two boys from the wreck where they were pinned beneath the front part of the car which had been smashed down over them.

R. Carmine stated the accident occurred at 9:45 on a level piece of paved road and has been the scene of three deaths within the past five months within 400 yards. It was where Marjorie Hahn was killed and a Mexican lad also lost his life in previous accidents.

Jacks had to be used to pry portions of the car apart to enable the patrolman and assistants to remove Keith's crushed limbs from the wreckage. The top of the car, as shown in the right hand view struck the lad on his forehead causing concussion of the brain. He lived until 12:45 without regaining consciousness.

In the opinion of Patrolman Carmine, something had gone wrong with the left front wheel of the car and this is indicated by photographs of the car tracks as it crossed the center line and dashed across the highway and up a bank, then turning and crashing into a tree completely crushing in the drivers side of the car as shown in the second picture.

Charles Smith's life was saved in this instance by the steering wheel it is believed. Though suffering a broken leg and severe cuts and bruises, the young man, 19, is not in serious condition and will recover.