

## HANKINS, JAMES THOMAS

1933-January 11, 1946

James Thomas Hankins, twelve-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Dave Hankins of the Slater community was fatally injured at 9:40 last Friday night when struck by a car driven by Victor Birkle, 21, as he was walking to the home of his uncle, M.G. McCord who lives in the former Rex Anderson place east of Wheatland. He was taken immediately to the Wheatland hospital but died an hour later from chest injuries.

James and his older brother, Kenneth, had attended the Lusk-Wheatland basketball game, and were to spend the night in the McCord home. They were nearly to the drive leading to the house, Kenneth walking on the shoulder of the road, and James in the barrow pit, when the pickup driven from the west by Birkle swerved into the ditch and hit the younger boy from the right side. Kenneth summoned his uncle, who had taken his car from the garage to go to the gymnasium for the boys, a cold wind having come up during the evening.

Search was begun for the driver who proceeded on his way with the result that Birkle was apprehended and held by county authorities until a coroner's jury of three, convening Monday afternoon reached the verdict the lad came to his death as the result of being struck by the car Birkle was driving. At the hearing, the latter admitted to being intoxicated, and was taken before the Justice of Peace P.A. Shope, pleaded guilty to involuntary manslaughter. The following day in Cheyenne, he was sentenced to not less than two nor more than four years in the state penitentiary. He is now at Rawlins.

James Hankins is survived by his parents, two brothers, Kenneth and Rex, one sister, Doris, his parental grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. A.T. Hankins of Shannon City, Ia. and his maternal grandmother, Mrs. Mabel Anderson of New Castle, Tex.

At the services held Tuesday afternoon at the Methodist church in Wheatland, the Rev. W.W. Maxwell and the Rev. Charles Thomas officiated. The many friends of the family and the sixth grade classmates of the boy were among the vast number attending the final rites. Mesdames Good, Cashner and Staats of Chugwater provided the music and pallbearers were friends from the Chugwater community.

Interment was made in the Wheatland cemetery.