

John Merback, Jr. Instantly Killed In Truck Crash

10-6-38

The second of two serious automobile accidents near Wheatland in the past week, claimed the life of Johnny Merback, Jr. Wednesday morning at 2:30 on the Laramie-Wheatland cut-off about sixteen miles south of town.

The crash occurred when Mr. Merback, who was driving an empty truck to Rock River for a load of coal, ran into the rear of an oil truck owned by Blanchard Bros. The driver of the oil truck, Art Thomas, was en route to Bosler with a load of oil.

A few minutes before the accident Mr. Tomas was having difficulty with the lights on the vehicle. When they flickered and then became very dim, he stopped and was reaching for a flashlight just as the crash came, knocking him to the floor of the cab.

An investigation showed that Johnny did not see the truck in time to go around, due to the faulty lights. He crashed into the rear with such an impact that he was instantly killed.

The accident was witnessed by Paul Russell of Torrington, who was also driving a truck en route from Laramie to Torrington. He had approached to within a quarter of a mile from the scene when the accident occurred.

A coroner's inquest was held Wednesday afternoon at ten o'clock and the verdict absolved both drivers of blame. The investigation was made by C. Stewart Dennis, county coroner, Sheriff Joe Wickam and Deputy Sheriff Chet Thompson.

John Merback was born in Dogden, North Dakota May 5, 1909. He was owner of the Capitol Ice and Storage Co. and assistant chief of the local fire department.

Surviving are his widow, one small daughter, Arlene, his parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Merback, five sisters, Mrs. Paul Prickhardt of Schofield, Barracks, Honolulu, Hawaii, Mrs. Erna Dickson of Guernsey, Mrs. Arnold Creacy of Riverton, Mrs. William Qualls and Elinor Merbeck of Wheatland and two brothers, Fritz and Herbert also of Wheatland.

Funeral services will be held Friday at 2 p. m. from the Methodist church with Rev. Wood and the Odd Fellows officiating. Burial will be made in the local cemetery with Watson and Dennis in charge of arrangements.