

SMITH, DELLIGHT
?-May 21, 1928

One of the saddest and most tragic accidents to occur in this vicinity for many years happened Monday night about 9:30 when Dellight Smith, 14 year old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Smith, lost her life in an automobile mishap on the Yellowstone highway just this side of the crest of Antelope Hill.

Miss Smith had lived in Wheatland twelve years and was a member of the Sophomore class of the local high school.

Funeral services were held at the Baptist church at 2 o'clock today, Thursday, with Rev. Charles F. Thomas conducting the rites. Interment was made in the Wheatland cemetery by the Watson Mortuary.

A coroner's inquest was held Wednesday and occupied most of the morning, several witnesses being heard. The jury returned the verdict saying in effect that Dellight Smith had met her death when a jugular vein was severed by fragments of glass piercing her neck when the door glass of an automobile in which she was riding in company with William L. Killebrew prior to and during the ride which ended fatally, was in an intoxicated condition.

According to the evidence introduced at the inquest, the story of the accident runs in this manner:

W.L. Killebrew picked up Violet and Gladys West and Dellight Smith in a coupe he was driving and the four drove around town for a short time. Violet West was permitted to drive the car and started for a ride south of town. The party drove to the crest of Antelope Hill and turned around to return to town. As the car approached the winding grade near the hill, the speed was increased and as it reached the second curve, the driver was unable to negotiate the turn and the car headed into a newly graded ditch. When it finally came to a stop up-side down, one of the girls had received injuries which a short time later resulted in death and her two girl friends and Killebrew escaped practically unscathed.

Not long after the accident occurred, Dr. Fish and his brother, H.T. Fish, who were responding to a call in the Slater neighborhood, drove up. The physician immediately placed the dying girl in his car and, accompanied by his brother, started for Wheatland. Death relieved her sufferings shortly after the trip to town had started.

Killebrew kept wandering until he came to the Ritter farm about five miles south of the scene of the accident and was taken back to the spot by Mr. Ritter where Deputy Coroner Watson and Night Marshall Hall, who had gone in search of Killebrew, found him. He was brought to town and placed in the county jail where he was held until after the inquest. Testimony showed that Killebrew had been drinking and had a bottle of whiskey in the car when the accident happened, but authorities were unable to locate any liquor in or around the car.

Killebrew, who is 53 years of age, received a slight cut on the forehead and a very badly bruised eye. The West girls were somewhat bruised and sustained several minor cuts on the hands and arms.

Killebrew, a resident of Cheyenne, was an employee of the State Highway Department. Immediately upon being advised of Killebrew's part in the fatal mishap,

officials of the highway department ordered his dismissal.

Two charges were placed against Killebrew, one having possession of liquor and the second one was for giving away liquor. He was placed under a \$500 bond which he furnished and left for his home in Cheyenne with his wife, daughter and son who were here to attend the inquest.

The car was almost a total wreck but despite its damaged condition, none of the wheels were broken and all the tires remained intact.

LAWSUIT FOR \$15000 CAUSED BY DEATH OF WHEATLAND GIRL

Clarence G. Smith of Wheatland has filed suit for \$15000.00 in damages against William Killebrew of Cheyenne, in the district court there Tuesday. The petition states Smith wants damages as the result of the fatal injury to Dellight Smith, who was killed in an automobile accident on Antelope Hill, south of Wheatland, May 23.

Smith also states in his petition that he is the administrator in the estate of his 14 year old daughter and claims that the brakes on Killebrew's car were defective at the time of the fatal accident and Killebrew was aware of that fact.

At the coroner's hearing at the time of the death of the Smith girl, Killebrew had stated he had taken his car prior to the fatal ride to a local garage to have the brakes adjusted, but the garage did not have time to fix them and he was to return the car the night of the accident to have them adjusted.