

WICKAM, MRS. J.E.

Mrs. J.E. Wickam was almost instantly killed about 9:30 A.M. Monday at the street crossing between the F.G. Huffman and J.R. Mason residences when she was run down by an automobile driven by Guy Carmichael.

In company with her husband and Miss Inez Usher of Lingle, Mrs. Wickam had just left the Methodist church where she had been helping during the W.T.C. U. convention, and was going to her home in the west part of town. As the three crossed 10th St., Mr. Wickam saw Ernest Greenlee approaching from the north on a load of hay and turned back to the center of the street to inquire about the delivery of a load to his barn.

Meanwhile, Carmichael was coming south on 10th street taking James Jensen to the fire. As he approached the load, he swerved his car to pass on the left. But Greenlee had pulled up his team immediately on the crossing to answer Wickam, and as he stopped, his team swung to the east to turn down past the Methodist church, to deliver the hay to the mill. At the inquest held later, Carmichael and Jensen both stated that they were almost up to the load on the left side when they saw the team swing in front of them. Fearing a collision, Carmichael swerved his car sharply around the rear of the load, just missing the end of the rack and coming suddenly on Mr. and Mrs. Wickam. Jensen stated that he believed that the car would strike the rear corner of the hay rack and throw his hands in front of his face, so he did not see the couple in the road. During the fraction of a second before the car was on them, Wickam grasped his wife's arm to pull her out of the way. Before he could accomplish it, the right fender struck him a glancing blow, knocking him down. Mrs. Wickam had been looking south watching cars run to the fire and turned to face the Carmichael auto just as it bore down on her. The right fender struck both legs in front, knocking her violently to the ground where she rolled for several yards under the right hand wheels. The car shot straight across the street towards the Yeast residence bringing up in the ditch.

Wickam and others near by rushed to the injured woman finding her unconscious and bleeding from the nose and ears. Dr. Phifer was summoned and at once pronounced it a case of skull fracture at the base of the brain, and beyond hope. She was taken to the hospital but was dead before arriving there.

An inquest was held at the court house Monday afternoon, where a coroner's jury composed of Walter Jackley, J.A. McDonald and Frank Dearing listened to the evidence of all connected to the accident. It there appeared that Carmichael had been prepared some time before to start down town for his mail for the Owen route, when Jensen asked him to help lift a wagon box. While they were lifting the box, the siren blew, and Jensen, who is a fireman, asked Carmichael to take him to the fire. It also appeared that Greenlee was slightly to the wrong side of the road, in order to keep his load in the smooth beaten track. Carmichael also neglected to sound his horn when he came up behind. Dr. Phifer testified before the jury that to all appearances Mrs. Wickam was killed by the force with which her head struck the ground when she was knocked from her feet, and that the impact of the car did not fatally injure her. The testimony of different witnesses varied as to the rate of speed at which the car was traveling, estimates

varying from 12 to 25 miles per hour. The testimony also conflicted as to whether or not Greenlee had stopped his team. But after a full consideration of the evidence, the jury came to the conclusion that no one could be held guilty rendering a verdict to that effect.