

Mrs. Harry Worden, Baby Granddaughter Killed As Autos Crash Near Magley

Adams County Woman, Decatur Infant Instantly Killed This Morning As Two Autos Collide; Six Others Injured

Two persons died and six were hurt, one believed seriously, in a county crossroads crash, two miles south of Magley about 10:15 a. m. today.

Dead are:

MRS. EMILY WORDEN, 42, wife of Harry Worden, Decatur, route two.
SHARON KAY SMITLEY, aged 14 months, Mrs. Worden's granddaughter and a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Smitley, of Decatur.

Injured are:

MRS. VIRGINIA SMITLEY, 20, wife of Herbert Smitley, daughter of the one victim and mother of the other.
LARRY WORDEN, 8, son of Mr. and Mrs. Worden.
DALE N. PLOUGHE, 30, of route two, Decatur; his wife, ELMA; their son, LESLIE DALE, 6, and their daughter, SHIRLEY JEAN, 9.

Killed Instantly

Both Mrs. Worden and her granddaughter are believed to have died instantly when their car collided with the Ploughe vehicle at a road intersection near the homes of the Worden and Ploughe families.

Mrs. Worden died of a skull fracture and internal injuries and the infant of a skull fracture also, preliminary examination by Coroner Robert J. Zwick disclosed at the scene.

Residents living in that vicinity had to lift the car from over their bodies to extricate them.

Mrs. Smitley and her brother, Larry, are in the Adams county memorial hospital, where it is reported by the attending physician that the former's condition may be serious. She is suffering considerably from shock and a back injury. Her condition prohibits X-rays and further examination, the physician said.

Larry suffered a fractured right collar bone and head injuries, but his condition is not thought serious, the doctor stated.

Mr. Ploughe, his wife and two children were all taken to the Wells county hospital in Bluffton. He is suffering from shock and a cut on the head. Mrs. Ploughe a jaw injury and shock. Neither of their conditions is believed serious, however. It is reported from Bluffton. Their son was injured slightly and the girl escaped unhurt.

Sheriff Leo Gillig and Deputy Sheriff Sam Bentz, who investigated the crash at the scene, said they believed Mrs. Smitley was driving the one car at the time of the crash and Ploughe the other. Mrs. Smitley, however, is reported to be in such a state of shock that she is unable to recall whether she or her mother was driving when the crash occurred. At the hospital some time after being admitted, she could not recall her mother being along in the auto, it was reported.

Mr. Gillig and Mr. Bentz, in reconstructing the accident, said the car carrying the Wordens and Smitleys was enroute north and that of the Ploughe family enroute west when the crash occurred. Evidence at the scene disclosed that the Ploughe car struck the other auto at the right front end, forcing it to the north-west corner of the intersection. There it struck the ditch and rolled over, pinning the two victims underneath. The Ploughe auto, towing a two-wheeled trailer, then ploughed through a fence and into the nearby field.

The front ends of both vehicles were badly damaged from the apparent terrific force of the impact.

Neighbors first attracted to the scene succeeded in removing the victims from inside and from under the autos. Foremost among these was Wes Mankey, who lives nearby. His son, Russell, took the four members of the Ploughe family to the Bluffton hospital in the Mankey car, while Darrell Borne and members of his family brought Mrs. Smitley and Larry Worden to the local hospital.

The bodies of Mrs. Worden and her granddaughter were removed to the John funeral home in Bluffton. Mrs. Worden's husband is an employe of the Fort Wayne General Electric company. He was called from work, following the crash.

Mrs. Worden is survived by her husband; her father, William Bracht of Bluffton and six children; Mrs. Smitley, the one injured; Mary Jane, at home; Mrs. Deloris Moser, widow of Roger Moser, killed in action with the armed forces; Kenneth and Raymond, students at Kirkland school and Larry, who was injured and is also a student in the grades at Kirkland.

Sharon Kay was the only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Smitley. Her father, Herbert, received his discharge from the army last Saturday.

Funeral services were not complete late this afternoon.

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