

(Handwritten date: Tuesday, December 24, 1940)

PAUL SMITH IS KILLED BY AUTO

Small Son of Former Decatur Residents Killed at Van Wert

Paul Richard Smith, two and one-half year old son of Mr. and Mrs. John Smith, of Van Wert, Ohio, former residents of Decatur, was killed last evening when struck by an auto near his home.

The lad was struck as he darted across the street to his home after visiting at a neighbor's house. The lad died of a crushed chest and internal injuries while enroute to the Van Wert hospital in an ambulance.

The car was driven by Zack Hartman, 20, of Van Wert. He was absolved of blame in the accident.

This was the first Christmas that the boy had been old enough to really understand the spirit of the occasion and an elaborate celebration had been planned especially for him. A Christmas tree with his presents around it had already been arranged.

The lad is the grandson of Rev. and Mrs. M. J. Frosch of Union township and of Jack Smith of this city. He was the only child in the family.

Funeral services are to be held Thursday afternoon at 1:30 o'clock (central standard time) at the Lutheran church in Van Wert and burial will be in that city.

The body was taken to the Vore-Knoll funeral home in Van Wert and is to be returned to the Smith residence, 802 Cable street, sometime today.

Adams County Historical Museum

1940 Scrapbook, image 186

Transcribed by Karin King