

(Handwritten date: Monday, March 31, 1941)

CAA OFFICIAL PROBES FATAL PLANE CRASH

Otto C. Smith Jr., 23, Is Killed When Ship Takes Nose Dive Near Berne

Daniel Moulton, Indiana inspector for the Civil Aeronautics Authority, today began an investigation of the fatal airplane crash of a farm northwest of Berne in which Otto C. Smith Jr., 23, of the Leo Road, was killed Sunday afternoon.

Moulton, it was said, will make an inspection of the plane and interview those persons who saw the plane in flight.

Smith, who died at 3:25 o'clock Sunday afternoon in the Adams County Memorial Hospital at Decatur of broken legs, a basal skull fracture and shock, was the third member of his family to meet death in a plane.

The youth's father, Otto C. Smith, was killed when his plane went into a tailspin and crashed during an exhibition at Montpelier in 1927, and the latter's cousin, Art Smith, Fort Wayne's bird boy was killed near Bryan, O., while flying the U.S. mail. (cut off)...onca C-3 which he purchased recently. He was attempting to make a landing on the Mennas Wulliman farm, five miles northwest of Berne. He had circled the field and was preparing to land when the plane suddenly dived, striking the ground nose first.

DIES ON BIRTHDAY

While the exact cause of the accident is not known yet, it is believed that he pulled the plane up suddenly to avoid some wires and that it stalled. He had too little altitude to pull out of the stall, and the craft plunged to the earth.

The fatal crash occurred on the youth's twenty-third birthday. He was born near Monroe on March 30, 1918, and spent his early years in Adams County. He started to fly in March, 1938, and soloed on January 3, 1939. He received his flight instruction from O. B. McVey, of the Inter-City Flying Service.

Smith was employed by the Rea Magnet Wire Company. Surviving are the widow, Mrs. Alice Smith; a son, Carl David; and the grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Simon Smith.

The body was taken to the Yager Funeral Home in Berne and will be removed late today to the home of his father-in-law, Joseph Baumgardner, east of Berne.

Funeral services will be held Wednesday afternoon at 1 o'clock at the residence and at 2 o'clock at the Cross Reformed Church at Berne. Burial will be in the MRE cemetery.

(Handwritten date: Saturday, August 2, 1941)

DIVORCE SUIT IS FILED IN COURT

Izora H. Roop, of this city, has filed suit for divorce from Miles F. Roop in Adams circuit court, charging cruel and inhuman treatment. The complaint states that they were married August 11, 1923 and separated July 28, 1941.

The plaintiff asks custody of three children and \$15 per week for their support. Nathan C. Nelson is attorney for the plaintiff.

(Handwritten date: Saturday, July 26, 1941)

Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Fravel of Fort Wayne are the parents of a baby boy born at the Adams county memorial hospital last night at 5:42 o'clock. He weighed six pounds, two and three-quarters ounces. He has been named Larry Herbert.

A baby daughter was born to Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Runyon of 437 South First street this morning at 1:05 o'clock at the Adams county memorial hospital. She weighed eight pounds, fifteen and one-half ounces and has been named Sarah Rachael.

(Handwritten date: Wednesday, August 6, 1941)

PNEUMONIA IS FATAL TO PORTLAND NEWSMAN

Leo J. Gegenheimer, 31, sports editor of the Portland Sun and Commercial-Review, died at the Jay county hospital Tuesday afternoon after a week's illness of bronchial pneumonia. He was well known in this city, having covered athletic contests between Decatur and Portland high schools for several years.

He is survived by the widow, two children, the parents, one brother and one sister, all of Portland. Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Friday at the Portland United Brethren church.

(Karin King note: Buried Green Park Cemetery, Portland, Indiana)

(Handwritten date: Saturday, July 26, 1941)

IS VICTIM OF TUBERCULOSIS

Eugene H. Daniels, 22, Dies At The Home of Parents In This City

Eugene H. Daniels, 22, popular young man of this city and a son of Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Daniels, 116? South Fifth street, died at 11:40 o'clock Friday night at his parent's home, following an eight month's illness of tuberculosis.

The young man, who was graduated from Decatur Catholic high school in 1936 and was a member of the Commodore basketball team that year, took ill last December. He was a patient at the Irene Byron Sanatorium, Fort Wayne, for over seven months.

Following his graduation from school, Mr. Daniels took up the profession of railroad telegraph operator. He was employed by the Erie railroad and was stationed at Kenton, Ohio, prior to his illness. His father is the telegrapher at the Erie tower in this city.

The deceased was born in Decatur, December 3, 1918. Besides the parents, two sisters also survive. They are Josephine and Phyllis, at home. A brother and a sister are deceased.

Funeral services will be held Tuesday morning at 9 o'clock from St. Mary's Catholic church, Rev. Joseph J. Seimetz, pastor, officiating. Burial will be made in St. Joseph's cemetery.

The body will be moved from the Gillig & Doan funeral home to the Daniels residence Sunday morning, where it may be viewed after 10 o'clock until time of the funeral.

Adams County Historical Museum
1940-1941a Scrapbook, image 56-57
Transcribed by Karin King