

Body Of Rhodes Man Found In Field At Baxter

7 JAN 1946

Search for William E. Smith 34, which had been conducted periodically by neighbors at Rhodes and sheriffs of Marshall and Jasper counties ended at 4:30 p. m. Sunday when his body was found in a field in Jasper county where he apparently died of exposure the night of Dec. 16.

Sheriff Harry W. Jennings received word the body had been found and Sheriff Ray E. Barber of Jasper county confirmed the reports. Barber said Ed Schweinebart of Newton, a factory worker, stumbled upon the body while walking thru a field about a mile and a half north of Baxter.

The body was lying in the remnant of a snowbank about half a mile from a ditch on the highway where Smith's auto had been found, with one tire deflated, soon after his disappearance was reported.

LAST SEEN AT BAXTER.

Sheriff Jennings said his office and Barber's office were not notified of Smith's disappearance until Dec. 23. The last time Smith had been seen was the night of Dec. 16 at Baxter, it was said.

W. L. Boswell, Marshall county, Jasper county deputy, joined in an extended search in the vicinity of the abandoned auto the day following the first report that Smith was missing. About 20 neighbors of Smith at Rhodes took part in that search.

Later a much larger searching party was organized and swept thru fields near the spot where the auto was found, but at that time the ground was covered with snow and searchers passed near the spot where Schweinebart found it without observing any trace of the missing man.

CORONERS VERDICT GIVEN.

Ralph Toland, Jasper county coroner, went to the scene and said exposure was the apparent cause of death. He reasoned Smith got out of his auto after the tire went down and tried to make his way thru the fields to Baxter but perished in the extreme cold.

Smith was born March 19, 1910, at Grimes, the son of Stephen and Katherine Smith. Besides his mother and his former wife, Eleanor Eldridge, he is survived by a son, Billy, 3. A sister, Catherine, also survives, along with his grandmother, Mrs. Nettie Miller of Des Moines.

Funeral services will be at 2 m. Wednesday in the Rhodesthodox church, in charge of Harry Sippel of Adel. Burial rites will be conducted