

# DR. FRED PHIFER, WIFE, SON, WIFE OF LATTER AND TRUCKER DASH TO DEATH IN BEAR CREEK

George Garnett of Cheyenne and Prominent  
Wheatlanders Drive Into Gap  
Washed in Highway

5 - 1935

Five persons went to death Friday morning after a cloudburst sent down Bear Creek, 34 miles north of Cheyenne, a torrent which swept out the south approach to and one span of the Yellowstone Highway bridge across the ordinarily virtually dry channel of the creek. Hours probably separated the accident, in each of which motor vehicles were driven into the gap in the roadway washed by the flood.

The dead are:

Dr. Fred Wood Phifer of Wheatland, owner of the Wheatland General Hospital and one of the most widely known physicians in the West.

His wife, Mrs. Phifer.

His son, Fred Wood Phifer II, manager of Dr. Phifer's ranch near Wheatland.

Mrs. Fred Wood Phifer II.

George Garnett, 23, of Cheyenne, step-son of City Fireman Ralph Garnett and driver for the Calhoun Transportation Company of Cheyenne.

All lost their lives when their motor vehicles plunged into the raging creek.

To ascertain details of the tragedies, Coroner Paul Worland will hold an inquest Saturday.

All except the younger Phifer and his wife died in the creek. The younger Phifers were able to crawl from their automobile as it was being battered in the furious waters and to crawl to the creek bank. They had been so seriously injured that they died after being brought to Memorial Hospital here. Both suffered fractures of the skull.

The Phifers were traveling in the sedan of the younger man. The party had spent Memorial Day in Cheyenne as guests of the O. O. Natwick family and left here at 11:45 p. m. Last to see them alive was Will Linn, Goshen County representative in the state legislature, who bid them goodbye at the Plains Hotel.

It has not been determined whether their car was on the bridge when it gave way or whether the bridge already had gone out and the car hurtled into the waters from the roadway.

It is known that the bridge was gone when Garnett arrived there in the Calhoun truck and that he careened through a washed-out strip of highway at the bridge approach. More than three hours probably elapsed between the accidents.

His speedometer was jammed at 48 miles an hour, indicating he

## PHIFER HEAD OF HOSPITAL

Came to Wyoming in 1907  
and Built Up Widely  
Known Institution

WHEATLAND, Wyo., May 31.—

The late Dr. F. W. Phifer was born at Statesville, N. C., Dec. 28, 1876. After graduation from medical school, he had charge of the Billings Memorial Hospital for four years.

He came to Wheatland in 1907, being attracted to Wyoming because of its climate, which he believed would improve Mrs. Phifer's health.

He opened an office here with Mrs. Phifer's sister as only assistant. From that small beginning has been built up the present private hospital, one of the most complete in the Rocky Mountain region.

Dr. Phifer also acquired large ranch and livestock holdings.

Margaret Giffen Phifer was born in Cairo, Egypt, Feb. 24, 1880. Her parents were Presbyterian missionaries. Both died in Egypt. Mrs. Phifer was educated in the United States, being a graduate of a school in South Carolina and in Oxford, Ohio.

She taught school two years and married Dr. Phifer in June, 1903. She became a licensed nurse in 1919. She was a highly educated woman, a skilled musician and served as state recording secretary of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

She was president of the Wyoming Nurses' Association in 1923.

Dr. and Mrs. Phifer were the parents of two sons: Fred Wood, born at Statesville, N. C., July 25, 1906. He was married March 9, 1928, to Margareta Boles of Ardmore, Okla. They have two children, Fred Wood III, aged six, and William Zach, age three.

A second son of Dr. and Mrs. Phifer, sole survivor of the immediate family, is John Knox Phifer, born in Wheatland on his father's birthday in 1910.

This entire community is over-