Herman Wilhelm
July 15, 1920 – Aug 20, 1952

Trucker Who Stopped to Aid
Fellow-Driver Dies in Crash

A young Wheatland Trucker is dead today because he stopped his truck early this morning on Highway 85 near the Colorado Wyoming border in an effort to help a fellow trucker get his stalled vehicle out of a barpit.

He is Herman Wilhelm, 32, who apparently was hurled against one of the parked trucks by a tow chain with such force that it crushed his head when he struck the truck box.

Driver of a south-bound truck which crashed between two halted trucks was Harry J. Bickel of Sterling, Color., employed by the Ensminger Trucking Co.

Patrolman Ray Schwarting of the Wyoming Highway Patrol said it was difficult to ascertain just what happened at first glance, since the three vehicles were cleared from the hiway by the impact and some were headed in different directions than when the tragic accident occurred.

Harold Herdt, 25, Dupont, Colo., driver of an R. B. Wilson oil transport, is a patient at Memorial hospital in Cheyenne suffering from a broken leg and possible other injuries.

According to Schwarting, the Wilson Co. transport was partially off in the barpit on the west side of the highway. Wilhelm, who was driving an empty livestock state truck, stopped to help get the oil transport out of the barpit.

Wilhelm and Herdt had just fastened a tow chain between the two trucks, both of which were headed north, when the truck driven by Bickel crashed directly between them striking both vehicles.

Schwarting said there were no flares out at the scene, but that three airmen had just stopped and were on their way to each side of the trucks to flag traffic when the accident happened.

He said it was impossible to tell positively, but he surmised that when the southbound truck hit the chain between the two halted vehicles, it tightened and threw Wilhelm against the side of his truck killing him instantly. The truck driven by Bickel ran over Wilhelm's chest after he was hurled into the barpit on the east side of the road.

Herdt was thrown onto the shoulder of the highway at its east edge.

The truck driven by the dead man was owned by George Good of Wheatland.

Wilhelm's death was the 101st of the year reported by the Wyoming State Patrol.

County Coroner Robert Grace says he will schedule an inquest into the mishap but has not yet set the time

Wheatland Man Killed, 2 Hurt in
3-Truck Crash

Cheyenne, Aug, 20 –(AP)—A Wheatland truck driver became Wyoming's 101st highway traffic victim of the year early today.

The state Highway Patrol reported that Herman Wilhelm of Wheatland was killed about 1:30 a.m. in a three-truck accident a half mile north of the Wyoming-Colorado state line on U.S. 85.

The 1952 death toll now is just four under the 105 fatalities reported for the same period a year ago. The accident increased the toll for August to 19, compared with 23 for all of August last year.

Patrolman Ray Schwarting of the Wyoming Highway Patrol said the 32 year old Wilhelm was killed when a truck driven by Harry J. Bickel of Sterling, Colo., crashed between two other trucks halted on the highway.

Schwarting said the Wheatland man apparently was hurled against one of the parked trucks by a tow chain with such force that it crushed his head when he struck the truck box. The force of the crash then threw Wilhelm into the barrow pit, where Bickel's truck ran over him.