

Grinnell man, son killed as truck burns in crash

A Grinnell man and his young son burned to death early Saturday following a head-on crash near the Missouri community of Willow Springs.

Dead are William George Holcomb, 30, and his son, Darin Lee Holcomb, who would have been two years old on July 3. Holcomb's wife Betty, who was driving the family's pickup truck at the time of the accident, was listed in good condition Saturday at a West Plains, Mo., hospital. She reportedly suffered cuts and abrasions when she was thrown from the vehicle.

Authorities said the Holcomb vehicle was struck head-on by a car which was traveling in the opposite direction at a high rate of speed. The crash reportedly occurred in the Holcombs' lane of the highway. A 27-year-old West Plains woman, who was a passenger in the car, also died in the crash.

The Holcomb pickup burst into flames upon impact, and Holcomb and his son were trapped inside.

The family left Grinnell Friday after Holcomb finished his shift at Miracle Recreation Equipment Co. here. The

Holcombs were en route to Quitman, Ark., to pick up their daughter Corinna, 9, and son Steven, 7, who had been visiting their maternal grandparents in Quitman.

Survivors

Survivors include Mrs. Holcomb; the two children; Mr. Holcomb's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Lester Holcomb of Grinnell; two brothers, including Grinnell Police Sergeant Jerry Holcomb; and two sisters.

Funeral services are pending, and friends may call the Smith Funeral Home for additional information.

6/26/76

4-R July 1, 1976

WILLIAM HOLCOMB

Rites held for crash victims

Funeral services were held at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday at the Assembly of God Church here for William G. Holcomb, 30, and his son, Darin Lee, 2, who died following a crash Saturday near Willow Springs, Mo. June 26

The Rev. Sam Reaves, pastor of the church, officiated. Organist was Mrs. Sam Reaves, and vocalist was Mrs. Patricia Goins. Pallbearers were Roger Cupples, Jack Davis, William Haines Jr., Robert Kline, Gene Shook, and Gean Tiedemann.

Graveside rites were conducted by Marion Gibson, commander; Edwin M. Richardson, chaplain; and members of the Grinnell Veterans Ceremonial Unit.

Burial was at Hazlewood Cemetery.

William Holcomb was the son of Lester and Viola Mitchell Holcomb and was born Oct. 7, 1945, in Grinnell. He attended Grinnell schools and

graduated from Grinnell High School in 1964.



William Holcomb

On Nov. 6, 1965, he was married to Betty Sue Epley in South Gate, Calif. The couple

had three children: Corinna, 9; Steven, 7; and Darin Lee.

Mr. Holcomb served with the U.S. Army in Vietnam, and after his discharge he worked for the city of Grinnell in the water department. For the past three years he had been employed at Miracle Recreation Equipment Co.

He is survived by his wife, Betty; his daughter and son, Corinna and Steve; his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Lester L. Holcomb of Grinnell; two brothers, Jerry L. Holcomb and Russell R. Holcomb of Grinnell; and two sisters, Mrs. James (Margaret) Shook of Grinnell and Mrs. Zebina (Judy) Macomber of Queen City, Mo.

Darin Lee Holcomb was born on July 3, 1974. He is survived by his mother; his sister and brother; his maternal grandmother, Mrs. Nellie Epley of Quitman, Ark.; and his

paternal grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Lester L. Holcomb.



Darin Lee Holcomb

Should friends desire, memorials may be left at the Smith Funeral Home