

MITCHELL, MILES  
March 20, 1963-July 5, 1982

Platte County Record-Times, July 7, 1982

**Wheatland man killed by hit and run Monday**

A Wheatland man was killed in an apparent hit and run accident early Monday morning, July 5. Miles Mitchell, 19, was walking along State Secondary Road 320 approximately 5 miles north of Wheatland about 3 a.m. when he was struck by an unknown vehicle.

According to Platte County Sheriff Einer Mickelsen, Mitchell's pickup truck had apparently stalled near that location and Mitchell was walking south toward Wheatland. He was about two-tenths of a mile from the vehicle when he was struck.

The Sheriff's office continues to investigate the incident. Deputy County Attorney Richard Dixon is asking that any persons with information about recently damaged vehicles should contact the Sheriff's or County Attorney's office,

Mitchell, a 1981 Wheatland High School Graduate, is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Bob Mitchell.

Platte County Record-Times, July 14, 1982

**'Initial impact' cause of Mitchell's death**

A three-man jury in a coroner's inquest into the death of Miles Mitchell, 19, concluded that he was "struck by an unidentified vehicle initially causing death."

The jury gave their decision after an hour of deliberation, following three hours of viewing evidence and hearing testimony Monday, July 19 in the Platte County courthouse.

Justice Wayne Torrey, acting coroner, presided while Deputy Platte County Attorney Richard Dixon questioned 13 subpoenaed persons.

"We didn't get any definite answers out of this inquest, but I hope we've succeeded in clearing the air and dispelling false rumors concerning the death of Miles Mitchell," said Dixon.

Twenty-six exhibits of evidence were entered into the record including an autopsy report and 21 pictures taken at the scene of the hit and run accident by Sheriff's Deputy Kevin Miner.

The juror's statement, signed by Jurymen F. Wood Phifer, William Parker and Bryce G. Orr, said in part, "Miles Mitchell came to his death on or about the 5th day of July ... by head and hip injuries that occurred while he stood by the intersection of Highway 320 and County Road 8-195 sometime between 2:50 a.m. and 3:10 a.m."

The statement continues, "The evidence in the case suggests Miles Mitchell's head and hip injuries occurred as stated by the autopsy report. He was struck by an unidentified vehicle initially causing death. The additional abrasions and head injuries suggest his having been run over one more time after the initial impact.

According to Justice Torrey, the autopsy report indicated Mitchell was struck in the left hip. Medical evidence from the autopsy report suggested head injuries occurring prior to death.

"This may have been the result of the initial impact with the pavement after having been struck," the report states. "The multiple, additional abrasions and head injuries suggest his having been run over at least one more time after the initial impact."

David Thorne of Wheatland testified that he and a companion, Jim McDaniel, ran over Mitchell's body after that initial impact.

During the inquest, a diagram of the geographical location was used to clarify where the events of that evening occurred.

Justice Torrey gave opening remarks explaining the reason for a coroner's inquest. "An inquest is a judicial investigation into the cause of death by the coroner with aid of a jury," he said in an interview Tuesday morning, July 20.

The purpose is to obtain information as to whether the death was caused by a criminal act, he said.