

WAGNER, CHARLES H.
MARCH 2, 1878—SEPTEMBER 25, 1934

The Wheatland Times
September 27, 1934

CHAS. WAGNER DIES AT STEERING WHEEL; BODY FOUND WED.
Heart Failure is Given As Cause of Tragic End

Wheatland and community was shocked Wednesday morning when the news reached town that the body of Chas. Wagner was found dead about a half mile south of the power plant in his car.

The body was found shortly before nine o'clock by Earl Miller and immediately the coroner and the sheriff's office were notified. They came to the scene of the tragedy and made investigations and took the body to the Lyla Watson Funeral Home.

Mr. Wagner and Mr. Miller started to the Frank Sutherland ranch, south of Wheatland Tuesday night. Shortly after reaching the power plant the Miller car, in which they were riding, ran out of gasoline. They came to town and got the Wagner car and drove back to the abandoned car and put in some gas, and Wagner proceeded to the Sutherland place and Miller returned home.

According to Sutherland, Wagner visited his place between 8 and 9 o'clock Tuesday night. After a short time there, he stated that he was tired and intended to go to his home which is located at the Mountain View Tourist camp. His car was running and he left the house and started home. This was the last anyone saw of Mr. Wagner alive.

In the morning Miller noticed that Wager had not returned the previous night and started out to the Sutherland place to find him. He passed the car on the way without recognizing it. He, together with Sutherland, came back and found Wagner in his car dead.

Jesse Payne, county coroner, stated this morning, following an examination of the body an inquest would not be necessary as it was plainly evident that Wagner was a victim of a heart attack.

The deceased had been subject to heart trouble and two days prior to his death he suffered a severe attack.

It appears evident that Wager, when he left the Sutherland home, was doomed to die. Two TIMES' reporters appeared at the scene of death just as soon as possible as it was possible to get there. We found the car located about a half mile south of the power plant.

The car was setting in the main roadway, but it had run to a ridge and backed down.

The supposition is that Mr. Wagner threw the car out of gear as death overtook him and the car continued to run, until it ran out of gas.

When the body was discovered, the ignition switch was still on, indicating death struck suddenly.

The body was found slumped over in the car lying on its right side. He was wearing gloves and his left arm was resting on the steering wheel. His pipe was found in the seat of the car just under his face, which would give the impression that he did not expect to die so suddenly.

The deceased was 56 years of age last March. He had been a rancher in the Owen country the past 45 years.

He was born in Marion county, Iowa and at the time of his death, his wife was in that state, being called there by the serious illness of her sister.

A message from Mrs. Wagner stated that she would arrive in Wheatland this evening. She requested in the telegram that the funeral services would be held Sunday afternoon at 2 o'clock but did not state where they would be held. Those who wish to learn the place of the services are asked to call the Lyla Watson Funeral Home who have charge of the body.

The Platte County Record
September 27, 1934

Charles Wagner Found Dead In Car Wednesday Morning

Charles H. Wagner, for many years a resident of this county, was found dead in his automobile Wednesday morning a short distance southeast of town as the result of a heart attack from which he had been suffering for some time.

Mr. Wagner had been at the Frank Sutherland place the evening before and left there at nine o'clock on his return to town. It is estimated that death must have overtaken him at around nine-fifteen. Evidences show that Mr. Wagner was stricken without warning and that his car had turned to the side of the road then slid back into the road again. The car was out of gear but the ignition was on and the tank was dry of gasoline. Several had passed the car earlier in the morning but had not noticed the stricken man as he had slumped over in his seat with one arm still resting on the wheel; as he was found about eight o'clock by Earl Miller as he drove by. Coroner Jesse Payne was called and the body taken to the Lyla Watson Funeral Home.

Mr. Wagner was born March 2, 1878 and was 56 years of age. Two other brothers have passed away from heart attacks.

Mrs. Wagner had been called to Iowa by the serious illness of a sister and was notified of her husband's death. She is expected here at noon today. Funeral services will be held at two o'clock Sunday.