

Walter S Ritchie

1867 - 1943

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S. W. Ritchie Found Dead At Homestead

Samuel Walter Ritchie, 75, was found dead beside the stove in his homestead cabin at Big Trails when his neighbor and employer, Fred Greet, went to his cabin with gifts Christmas morning.

He had been ill when he returned from visiting his brother a few weeks ago and had spent a week with Mr. and Mrs. Greet before going on to his homestead two miles away. Death was attributed to a heart attack. He was fully clothed when found and was sitting beside the stove which was still warm.

Ritchie had been in the Big Trails country 35 years and had been employed by Fred Greet the last 14 years. He was born in January, 1868.

Only survivors known are a brother, Edgar Ritchie, at Mitchell, Neb., and a sister, Mrs. Dasie Roberts, of Greeley, Colo.

Mrs. Roberts will arrive today and funeral arrangements will be made then.

S. W. Ritchie, 75, died of a heart attack at his cabin, near the Greet ranch, some time Friday.

In November, Walt was called to Scottsbluff, Neb., by the serious illness of his brother. On his return trip, he had an attack of flu while at Casper. He took a sweat that night, and came on to Worland the next day, and stayed at Ten Sleep that night. The next day he came on up to the Greet ranch.

The Greets were having their second round of flu. Those who didn't get it at first, now had it. Fred Greet was recovering, but still confined to the house, and Mrs. Wallen, Mrs. Greet's mother, was still seriously ill. Mrs. Greet told Walt to stay in the bunk house and his meals would be brought to him. Walt thought he was well enough to come to the house for his meals, which he did, against the better judgment of the rest. After eight days, he decided he wanted to go to his cabin, and though he was told he should wait a while, he insisted on going. Emmett Egbert took him out and helped him start the fire.

On Christmas morning, Fred Greet rode out with some baked things, some Christmas gifts and his mail. He found that Walt had died suddenly while sitting beside the stove. There was still some fire in the stove, so death must have occurred some time on Friday.

Fred went to Ten Sleep and called Sheriff Nicola, and he and Arnold Velle came and removed the body to the undertaking rooms.

Walt has lived in this country for 35 years, having come here for his health. He never enjoyed staying away, and was always happy to get home, as he was this time. During the past 14 years, he has been employed more or less at the Greet ranch. For several years, he has had charge of the summer camp on the mountain. He took great pride in always being on the job, and in the progress of the cattle during the summer.

He is survived by a sister, Mrs. Dasie Roberts, of Greeley, Colo., and a brother, Edgar Ritchie, of Mitchell, Neb. He also leaves a number of nieces and nephews.