

History Question of the Month

What prominent Butler family suffered a devastating loss on December 24, 1946?

Answer

Frank Leslie Cowley and Vera Elizabeth Tucker moved to Butler about 1939 after Vera's mother died, to take care of her father, Ed Tucker. Shortly after moving in, Frank was called to serve as Bishop of the Butler Ward. Their oldest son Lynn Frank died as a child of pneumonia, caused by the measles. Their next oldest son, Kent, served in WWII. Shortly after being released from the service at the end of the war, he obtained a job working for Millcreek Lumber. On the night of December 24, 1946, while returning home with a friend. He was involved in a tragic traffic accident that took his life. The night was extremely foggy and they were only able to see a few feet in front of them as they drove along State Street. At about 6400 South in Murray, while attempting to make a left hand turn onto 6400 South, they mistakenly drove into a pit at a service station. (This was in the days when service stations had pits to drive over so they could get under your car to work on it.) Kent died at the scene. His friend survived. The Cowley family and the entire Butler community were devastated. Kent had made it through all the horrors of the war and then lost his life to a traffic accident. The Cowleys had two other children.

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