

August 16, 1934

OLD GROTONITE DIES IN FLAMES

CHAS. PATTERSON MEETS HIS
DEATH WHEN TRUCK, CAR
COLLIDE IN CALIFORNIA

Charles Patterson, a former business man of this city, and husband of Miss Myrtle Rathbun, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. V. F. Rathbun, met his death last Friday, when a truck and car collided in Pomona, Calif.

The following account of the accident is taken from the August 11 issue of the Pomona Bulletin and sent to us by air mail:

"Crushed between the seat and steering wheel of a spray rig truck, Charles E. Patterson, 58, of 204 Columbia avenue, met death in the blazing wreckage which resulted from a collision with an automobile at San Bernardino and Mills avenues at 2:30 o'clock, Friday afternoon. Patterson's body was burned in the flames after efforts of Hazel Barnts Rogers, 3329 Keystone street, Los Angeles, driver of the car, and Mrs. O. J. Maxwell, Bonita avenue and Mills avenue, to rescue him proved in vain. Mrs. Maxwell believes that Patterson expired shortly after the collision and before the flames from a burning gas tank had become intense. He was heard to cry out and then was seen suddenly to slump over the steering post.

"Reports of investigating officers, including Constable Walter Hardy of Ontario township and Louis Kronmyer of the California state highway patrol, indicated the two vehicles crashed almost head on.

"Miss Rogers was traveling south on Mills avenue and Patterson in the spray rig truck, owned by May and Fisher of Pomona, was going east on San Bernardino avenue and started to turn onto Mills avenue when the vehicles collided. Both roads, just outside the Pomona city limits, are narrow.

"Patterson's truck was equipped with a 1,000-gallon water tank for orchard spraying. When the vehicles crashed the heavy tank slid forward against the seat and pinned Patterson. At the time the collision ruptured the gasoline tank and the truck burst into flames beneath the trapped driver. A five-gallon can containing crude oil in the front seat with Patterson added to the intensity of the blaze.