

Three vehicle mishap claims one victim *6/21/77*

Mrs. Lee (Sharon) Zoellner, 23, rural Bruce, died Friday in the McKennan Hospital in Sioux Falls of injuries received in a three-vehicle accident near Volga Tuesday morning.

Mrs. Zoellner's car was in a collision with a semi-trailer truck and another car at the intersection of U.S. 14 and County Road 7 (the Bruce road) two miles east of Volga about 6:22 a.m.

The accident occurred in dense fog which apparently was a factor in the three-vehicle collision and a secondary collision which occurred later.

Mrs. Zoellner, who was southbound on the county blacktop, apparently was unaware of the approaching intersection until it was too late. She applied her brakes and skidded sideways through the stop sign into the intersection and into the side of a west-bound semi-trailer truck, according to the Highway Patrol.

The back tandem of the semi-trailer truck carried the car west and onto a bridge where the car rammed into the side of the bridge, broke the bridge railing and lodged crosswise blocking the bridge. The semi stopped on the other side of the bridge, according to officers.

Another car came along a few minutes later from the west and slammed into the Zoellner car which was blocking the bridge, according to highway patrol.

Mrs. Zoellner was pinned in the car between the steering wheel and the seat and inside a door of the car which would not open. The Brookings Fire Department rescue squad pried the door open and extricated Mrs. Zoellner with the "jaws of life" tool.

Mrs. Zoellner was taken to the hospital by Brookings ambulance and was transported to Sioux Falls between 11 a.m. and noon Tuesday.

Driver of the other car was Carl J. Thompson, 31, of Sioux Falls, Brookings, who was detained in an ambulance.

Mrs. L. Zoellner

Mrs. Lee Zoellner, 23, Bruce died Friday, June 17, in a Sioux Falls hospital of injuries suffered in a traffic accident early Tuesday two miles east of Volga. The car she was driving from the north, struck a westbound semi-trailer truck and subsequently a bridge, in dense fog on Highway 14. Mrs. Zoellner underwent surgery in the Brookings Hospital and was transferred later to Sioux Falls.

Funeral services were held Monday, June 20, at 1 p.m., in the First Baptist Church in Brookings with the Rev. Thomas Kramer officiating. Lyle Stewert sang and Greg Painter was organist. Burial was in the Lake Side Cemetery at Spencer.

Sharon E. McDaniels was born May 5, 1954 at Mitchell, daughter of Charles and Florence Claussen McDaniels. She lived at Wessington Springs and Groton for a time. In December, 1974, she received an associate degree at South Dakota State University. She was married to Lee Zoellner at the First Baptist Church in Brookings on May 24, 1975. For the past six months they lived at Bruce.

Survivors are her widower; parents, Mr. and Mrs. Charles W. McDaniels, Brookings; a brother James L. McSaniels, Aurora; a sister Susan K. McDaniels, Aberdeen; and grandparents, Mrs. Maude Claussen and R.W. McDaniels. A brother preceded her in death. *6/29/77*