

From the Monday, August 12, 1985 edition of the Benton (Illinois) Evening News:

Set services in Christopher for Marianne Key Funeral services for Mrs. Marianne Key will be Wednesday at 2 p.m. at Gilbert Funeral Home in Christopher. Mrs. Key, 25, of Coello, was fatally injured in a hit and run traffic accident Saturday, August 10, 1985, on Route 14, west of Benton. The Reverend Cecil Sullivan will officiate at the services. Interment will be in Mulkeytown Cemetery. Visitation at the funeral home will be after 6 p.m. Tuesday. Mrs. Key was a native of Kankakee, born June 29, 1960, to Donald and Ilene Howell Curwick. She is survived by her husband, Kim Key; two children, Mary Ann and Susan Marie Key, both at home, and her mother, of Benton. She also leaves four sisters, Lee Ann Curwick and Christina Curwick, both of Benton; Jill Poe, Zeigler and Beth Donovan, Buckner, and two brothers, Timmy Curwick, Buckner and Steven Curwick, Benton. Her father and a brother, Donald Curwick, preceded her in death. Prepare charges in road death (page 1 story) Franklin county State's Attorney Terry Green said formal charges would likely be filed today in connection with the traffic death late Saturday of a young mother who was hit by a car near West City. It was the fifth death this year from traffic incidents in Franklin county. Dead is Marianne Key, 25, of Coello. Green said he was auditing written police reports for a final answer but he expected the charge against Barbara Yoder Kempfer, 28, to be reckless homicide. Kempfer lives at 311 South McLeansboro in Benton. She was arrested at her home about seven hours after Marianne Key was hit while pushing a bicycle uphill a short distance west of the Eakin Grove road. West City Police Chief Louis Westray said Kempfer was drinking in a Christopher bar shortly before the victim -- mother of two young daughters -- was struck and killed by the eastbound car. Franklin county Coroner Robert Lewis said death was caused by massive head injuries. An autopsy was conducted at Herrin Hospital. Witnesses, Westray said, provided information that helped identify the car. State police, Gary Hall of West City police, the sheriff's department, Christopher police and Benton worked jointly to assemble information that led to the arrest at the defendant's home about 12:40 a.m. Police interviewed Barbara Kempfer before booking her at the county jail pending formal charges from the prosecutor's office. Westray said it was shortly before 5 p.m. when the victim was walking the bike uphill on the shoulder of the road and was hit by the car later linked to Barbara Kempfer. Barbara Kempfer, according to Westray, recalled "hitting something" near the spot where the fatality occurred. However, she did not stop. The automobile was impounded and an application for a search warrant was being taken before the court today. Authorities said the vehicle would be searched and examined closely for blood, hair, skin and fragments of clothing that could be compared to the victim. A number of witnesses have given statements to police, Westray said.