

Injured Dec. 30—

Craig Ahrenholtz, 20, first fatality in '77

Craig Ahrenholtz, 20, son of Mr and Mrs Harry Ahrenholtz of Defiance, became Shelby County's first traffic fatality of 1977 when he died Tuesday at Mercy Hospital in Council Bluffs (see page 2 for funeral arrangements).



Craig Ahrenholtz
... died Tuesday

Ahrenholtz had been hospitalized since Dec. 30, when he was involved in a two-car accident on old Hwy. 59, about four miles north of Harlan.

According to the Shelby County Sheriff's office, Ahrenholtz was injured when the northbound car he was driving collided with a southbound car driven by Pat Sondag of Harlan. Sheriff Orrell Gearhart said the two cars side-swiped each other as they passed.

The impact of the collision forced the Ahrenholtz vehicle off the road and into a ditch where it flipped over on its top.

Ahrenholtz was taken to Myrtue Memorial Hospital and later transferred to Council Bluffs. He had been reportedly suffering respiratory problems and was scheduled to undergo surgery Tuesday morning. Sondag was not injured in the accident.

Sheriff's deputies said as yet no cause had been determined for the accident.

An autopsy was performed to determine the cause of death but the report was unavailable by press time.