

## Edith J. Christoph

( - 27 Dec 1931)

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*The Evening Star, December 25, 1931, p. 18*

### **Mother Of 3, Hurt In Car's Drop Off Cliff, Near Death Husband and Two Children Seriously Injured in Rock Creek Crash Machine Drops 30 Feet After Skid On Wet Road Third Youngster Escapes With Bruises – Four Other Persons Traffic Accident Victims**

Mrs. Edith J. Christoph, 34, of 2917 Ordway street was near death this morning from injuries received yesterday afternoon when the automobile in which she was riding with her husband and three children plunged over a 30-foot cliff in Rock Creek Park near the Park Road Bridge. Two of the children were seriously hurt.

At Garfield Hospital, Mrs. Christoph was said by physicians to have suffered a fractured skull. She was still unconscious today. At the same institution, her 3-year-old daughter, Mary Joan, also was thought to have a fractured skull, but her chances of recovery was said to be considerably better than her mother's.

A second daughter, Katherine, 6, is at Children's Hospital. Her skull may be fractured. The third child, Carolyn Edith, 7, escaped with minor bruises.

#### *Husband Badly Hurt*

The husband, Fred A. Christoph, 37, an assistant in the foreign commerce division of the United States Chamber of Commerce, received a fractured pelvis. He was admitted to Garfield.

The accident occurred about 2:15 o'clock as the car, driven by Mr. Christoph, was proceeding east on Park road. About 200 yards west of the Park Road Bridge Mr. Christoph applied his brakes and the car skidded on the wet roadway, crashed through the heavy guard rail and plunged over the cliff.

Edgar G. Chase, 3432 Thirty-fourth street, a passing motorist, extricated the injured from the wreckage and took them to the hospital. Chase was assisted by Mrs. W.B. Upright, 1622 Wisconsin avenue.

Sergt. L.G. Pottlebaugh and Pvt. P.R. Toland of the United States Park Police investigated the accident.

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*The Evening Star, December 26, 1931, p. 12*

### **Woman Hurt In Drop Of Car Fails To Rally Mrs. Edith J. Christoph Reported in Grave Condition After Auto Plunges Over Cliff**

Mrs. Edith J. Christoph, 34, of 2917 Ordway street, was still unconscious today as a result of injuries received Thursday afternoon when the automobile in which she was riding with her husband and three daughters plunged over a 30-foot cliff in Rock Creek Park.

It was said at Garfield Hospital this morning that her condition was extremely grave. The husband, Fred A. Christoph, 37, and the children, Katherine, 6; Carolyn Edith, 7, and Mary Jean, 3, all were injured, but were said to be progressing satisfactorily. Katherine was the most seriously hurt. Her skull is believed to have been fractured.

*The Evening Star, December 27, 1931, p. 13*

**Woman Injured In Auto Plunge Still In Stupor  
Condition of Mrs. Edith Christoph Continues Grave;  
Others Expected to Recover**

The condition of Mrs. Edith J. Christoph, 34 of 2917 Ordway street, injured when the automobile in which she was riding with her husband and three children plunged over a 30-foot cliff in Rock Creek Park Thursday afternoon, continued extremely grave last night. She had not regained consciousness.

It was believed the other injured would recover. They were Fred A. Christoph, her husband, driver of the car, and three small daughters of the couple, Katherine, Carolyn and Mary Joan. Mrs. suffered a fracture of the skull in the accident.

**Christoph, Edith J.** On Sunday, December 27, 1931, at Garfield Hospital Edith J. Christoph, beloved wife of Fred A. Christoph. Funeral services at her late residence, 2917 Ordway st. n.w., Tuesday, December 29 at 2 p.m.

**Christoph, Edith.** Members of Theta Pi attending the funeral of Mrs. Edith Christoph are requested to meet at Conn. Ave. and Ordway st. at 1:45 p.m. Tuesday, December 29, 1931.

Mrs. M.A. Sterling, Secretary

*The Evening Star, December 28, 1931, p. 17*

**Victim Of Auto's Plunge Succumbs  
Mother of 3, Hurt When Car Went Over Park Cliff,  
Dies of Skull Fracture**

Mrs. Edith J. Christoph, 34, of 2917 Ordway street, died yesterday in Garfield Hospital without regaining consciousness after being injured when the automobile in which she was riding with her husband and three small children plunged over a cliff in Rock Creek Park Thursday afternoon.

Death was due to a fractured skull, and came at 9 o'clock yesterday morning. Funeral services will be held at 2 o'clock tomorrow afternoon at the family residence, and interment will be in Congressional Cemetery.

All members of Mrs. Christoph's family also were injured in the accident, but it is thought that they will recover. Fred A. Christoph, 37, an assistant in the foreign commerce section of the United States Chamber of Commerce, husband of Mrs. Christoph, and a 6-year-old daughter, Katherine, are still in hospitals. Christoph received a fractured pelvis and is in Garfield Hospital. The girl is in Children's Hospital with a skull fracture. The two other children, Carolyn Edith, 7, and Mary Joan, 3, have been returned to their home.

At an inquest held at the District Morgue today, a coroner's jury held Christoph blameless, returning a verdict of accidental death.

The accident occurred about 2:15 p.m. Christmas eve. The automobile, driven by Mr. Christoph, was proceeding east on Park road about 200 yards west of the Park Road Bridge. He applied the car's brakes and the machine skidded, crashing through a guard rail and over a 30-foot cliff.

Witnesses at the inquest testified the car skidded when Christoph applied his brakes and then left the road, crashing through the rail fence and plunging over the precipice. It was raining at the time, they said, and the road was slippery.