

Eugene Smith

(- 10 Jun 1924)

Smith. Suddenly on June 10, 1924, Eugene Smith, 48 years, beloved son of Mary and the late Robert Smith. Funeral Friday at 2 o'clock from Thomas R. Nalley's undertaker, 131 11th street s.e. Relatives and friends invited.

The Evening Star, June 11, 1924, p. 7

Body Found In Street

Three Held in Connection With Death of Alleged Bootlegger

Three colored residents of Benning are under arrest in connection with the death yesterday of Edward, alias "Doc," Smith, fifty, 130 Anacostia road, Benning, who was scheduled to appear in Police Court today on a bootleg charge, and whose body they are said to have taken to Ridge road and Alabama avenue southeast and abandoned.

Smith died in the home of Edward Keyser, colored, 4143 Benning road northeast, early yesterday morning. Occupants of the house kept the body in the house until last night, when it was taken to Southeast Washington and abandoned, it is reported.

Sometime before the body was found by passing motorists police of the eleventh precinct were told that there was a dead man in the Keyser home. Acting Lieut. Dent, accompanied by members of his command, visited the home and were told the report was erroneous. When a second message telling of the presence of a dead body in the house was received the police returned to the house and arrested Keyser.

Shortly after Keyser's arrest the police received a report of the finding of Smith's body. Detectives Brodie and Vermillion assisted the Anacostia police in an investigation of the affair. Mrs. Louise Keyser, wife of the man arrested; Mary Hawkins, also colored, 4278 Benning road northeast, and Vernon Ennis, a sixteen-year-old colored neighbor, were arrested and booked as being held for investigation.

Keyser, Mary Hawkins and the Ennis boy are said by the police to have been occupants of the automobile in which the body was taken from the Keyser home and abandoned on the road. Ennis was driver of the car.

The Washington Post, June 12, 1924, p. 4

Three Held On Charges of Removing Body

Man Who Died After Drinking Corn Liquor Left by Side of Road, Police Say

Charges of removing a body from one place to another without a health department permit have been placed against three colored persons arrested Tuesday night in connection with the death of Edward ("Doc") Smith, 50 years old, 130 Anacostia road.

Smith's body was found lying beside Ridge road near Alabama avenue northeast. According to the police, he died Monday night at the home of Edward Keyser, colored, 4143 Benning road, as the result of drinking corn liquor. Becoming frightened, according to the police, he died Monday night at the home of Edward Keyser, colored, 4143 Benning road, as the result of drinking corn liquor. Becoming frightened, according to the police, Keyser, his wife, and Mary Hawkins, 4278 Benning road, removed the body placed it in an automobile, and left it on Ridge road. This was in violation of the health department regulations, the police say.

Coroner J. Ramsay Nevitt yesterday said Smith had died of heart disease. The aged man recently was arrested on a charge of bootlegging and was to have appeared in police court yesterday for trial.