

The rollover accident on Deming Blvd after Sheriff's Department pursuit

There are some things that still don't add up

When Laramie County Attorney Mark Voss ordered the Laramie County Sheriff's Department to deny me public records, there may have been a reason for that edict other than his stupidity.

Because, in spite of the order by Voss not to provide public records to the Cheyenne Herald, and the Sheriff Department's acquiescence, we got 'em.

There are some areas of concern about this chase and rollover.

When I wrote the article about this incident for the July 1, 2008 issue, it was with tongue in cheek that I asked the rhetorical question about the Department having something to hide.

There are those, including the driver of the car fleeing law enforcement, who are adamant that the time of the incident which ended off Deming, near the Ames underpass, directly north of O'Neil on Cheyenne's southside, was ~10:00 pm.

The deputy who initiated the chase wrote in a **SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT** that "... at 0117 hours, I initiated a traffic stop at the intersection of I-180 and East 5th Street ..." The **"INVESTIGATOR'S TRAFFIC CRASH REPORT"** states that "Police" was notified at 0136 and arrived five minutes later - at 0141. That is inconsistent with the deputy's report.

The Crash Report states that "EMS" was notified at 0121 and arrived at 0125.

That would mean an ambulance was on scene before police were even notified.

That is contradictory to the deputy's Report, which said that as the fleeing car came back onto 9th St. at Optimist Park (which the Report said the fleeing driver had driven through), "Officer H with the Cheyenne Police Department had arrived to assist me and was waiting on 9th St."

For the investigation report to be accurate, the ambulance would have had to arrived on scene before the fleeing car got there - if CPD was "notified" at 0136.

OR, the police officer joined the chase without notifying dispatch himself so he could provide assistance at about 0125 or earlier. Things probably get a little hectic and some of the times can't be recalled exactly. But the time a call is

taken by the 911 Center or AMR would be precise, it would seem.

The young man's car, pictured below after the crash, was first stopped, according to the Supplemental Report, at 0117. He pulled to the center of I-180 north of 5th St. and was directed by PA to pull to the right side. Instead, the Report says, he fled. He went north to 9th St., west to Capitol, north to 10th St., west, then south thru Optimist Park back to 9th St., west a few feet, ran a stop sign, turned right on Deming and the chase ended when he lost control, went off Deming and toward the Crow Creek, spun and rolled twice.

Describing the pursuit, the deputy wrote, "... he positioned his vehicle on the left side of the roadway and then left the roadway on the left shoulder traveling north." That would put the young man in the lane of oncoming traffic, had there been any.

The deputy went on to write: "At this point (he) lost control of his vehicle. As he came back onto Deming Boulevard, he attempted to stay on the road through the curve to the west on Deming Boulevard. (His) vehicle left the roadway, now north of Deming Boulevard down into Crow Creek. As I pulled up to the edge of Deming Boulevard looking down into Crow Creek I observed (his) vehicle rolling side to side two times. (He) had been partially ejected where he had been hanging out of the passenger side window from about his waistline up."

The Investigation Report differed. There, it read: "While the fleeing vehicle was northbound on Deming Drive, the passenger side entered the shoulder and the vehicle began to fishtail. The driver was unable to regain control of the vehicle. The vehicle left the roadway as Deming Drive curves west (near O'Neil Avenue.) The vehicle began a counterclockwise spin as it slid down the embankment. The vehicle overturned two complete revolutions and came to rest facing south." Those words appear at the bottom of the diagram at the right.

The investigator then wrote, "the driver was ejected and came to rest on the west side of the vehicle."

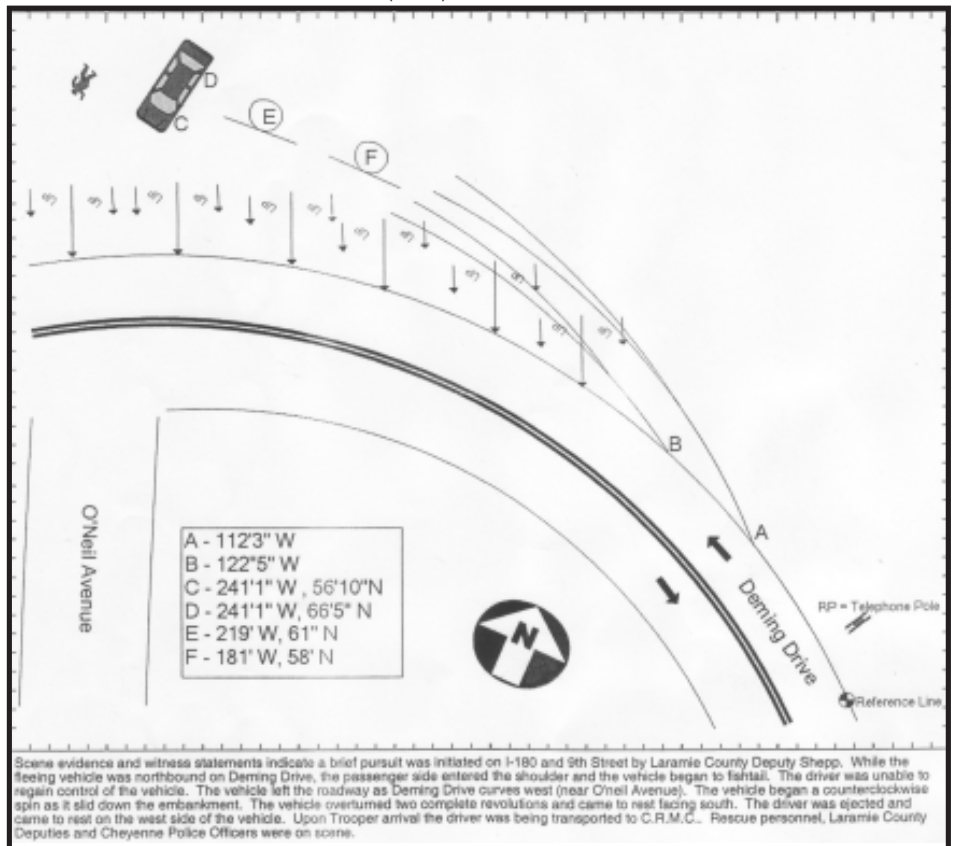
That is what the drawing reflects. That is what the

young man driving the damaged car has said he was thrown clear of the car.

He said he was thrown out the passenger side of the vehicle and was found ~20' feet to the west side of the '97 Lumina.

The car, by the way, was not his. Its owner's daughter dated (dates) the guy and had given him the keys to deliver the car for repairs while she and her mother vacated in Mexico. That's where they were when this incident occurred. (Below)

that the chase and crash happened a few minutes after one on the morning of June 14. There are other sources to determine the time and they are being contacted. So what? Well, maybe the rules of pursuit are different when people might be on neighborhood streets or in a public park. Maybe not. Short of LCSD cooperation, it can't be determined the hours of the deputy's shift that night. If he came on at midnight, obviously any question about what time this incident occurred would be moot.



The contradictions of note now are the time of the crash and whether the driver was ejected (as the investigator wrote) or partially ejected (as the deputy wrote).

Does it matter?

Normally not but when government officials like a county attorney refuse to turn over public records without a legal fight, usually something stinks in Denmark. Because of the other times provided by the WHP investigator, it would appear

Pictures of the damaged car, taken on June 20, six days after the crash.



Herald

pick-up locations

- City News - Downtown
- BLM Building Lobby
- Safeway - South Cheyenne
- Wonder Bread Outlet - Ridge Rd.
- Oroweat Bakery Outlet - SW Dr.
- Borderline - Colorado Lottery
- Laramie County Library
- Laramie County Gov't Center - North
- Herschler Building - North
- VA Hospital - South Entrance
- Town & County Liquors
- Burger Inn
- Luxury Diner
- American Storage
- Avenues Pet Clinic
- Los Amigos
- Diamond Horseshoe
- Daylight Donuts (both)
- Quick Draw Optical
- Village Inn-Downtown
- T-Joe's Steakhouse & Saloon

Many, many other locations in the City and Laramie County

In the county ...

- Uncle Fred's, A & W,
- RA Lumber and Wild Horse Restaurant - all in Pine Bluffs
- Panhandle Co-Op, Burns
- Antelope Truck Stop on I-80
- Albin Diner & General Store