Price Dies in Cave Exploration

A Brooklyn native, Michael Price, 29, died Saturday evening in the verticle shaft of a cave near Luana in Northeast Iowa. Also dead is the expedition leader, Katherine L. McCluskey (Mrs. Karl DeLong) of Grinnell. Five Grinnell College students lived.

The college expedition Feb. 28 was caught by a surface snow storm and the melting snow which cascaded into the 112-foot deep verticle shaft of Miller’s cave. Three students made it out before Price and Mrs. DeLong were drenched with freezing water on their way out. They died on their ropes hours before rescuers reached them.

The remaining two college cave explorers were rescued from the dark, wet hole in the early hours of Sunday morning. Price was the son of Mrs. Jay Price and the late Robin Price and the late Robert B. Price, 29, of 1625 Third Ave., Grinnell, was killed Saturday, Feb. 28, 1987, in a cave exploration accident near Postville.

Rev. Fr. Karl Holtkamp, pastor of St. Patrick’s, was the celebrant of the Funeral Mass. The organist was Marilyn Kriegel, and the soloist was Mrs. Sybil Kelley. Flower attendants were Mrs. Annie Bacon, Mrs. Sandy Roberts, and Mrs. Donna Muntz. Casket-bearers were Mark Flisgard, Phil Woodall, Don Wauters, Richard May, Bill Plants, and Bill Kelley. Interment was in Calvary Cemetery, Brooklyn.

A rosary service was held at 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, at the Nevenhoven Funeral Home, Brooklyn.

Michael Charles Price, son of Mrs. Betty Marion Wauters Price and the late Robert B. Price, was born June 22, 1957, in Grinnell, and died Feb. 28, 1987, near Postville, having attained the age of 29 years, 6 months, and 6 days.

Mike received his education in BGM Schools of Brooklyn where he participated in football and wrestling and graduated in 1976. He then attended Des Moines Community College for two years followed by two years at Hawkeye Tech of Waterloo. Mike worked for Gladolfo of Wheeling, Ill., and moved to Grinnell a year and a half ago where he was employed by Grinnell College as an electronics technician.

Mike was a member of St. Mary’s Catholic Church of Grinnell.

Surviving are his mother, Mrs. Betty Price of Brooklyn; his brother, Bob, of Des Moines; two sisters, Linda of Kirkville, Mo., and Christy of Grinnell; and his grandmother, Mrs. Naomi Price of Brooklyn.

He was preceded in death by his father, his paternal grandfather and his maternal grandparents.

Funeral services for Michael Price, 29, of 1625 Third Ave., Grinnell, who died of hypothermia inside a cave he was exploring with a Grinnell College expedition Saturday near Luana in northeast Iowa, were conducted at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday at St. Patrick’s Catholic Church in Brooklyn.

The Rev. Fr. Karl Holtkamp celebrated the Funeral Mass. Organist was Marilyn Kriegel, and vocalist was Sybil Kelley. Pallbearers were Mark Flisgard, Phil Woodall, Don Wauters, Richard May, Bill Plants and Bill Kelley. Burial was in Calvary Cemetery, Brooklyn.

A Rotary service was conducted at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday at the Nevenhoven Funeral Home in Brooklyn. Earlier, a memorial service was conducted in Herrick Chapel on the Grinnell College campus, with the Rev. Fr. Harry Lennernbrick, pastor of St. Mary’s Catholic Church in Grinnell, officiating.

The son of Robert B. and Betty Marion Wauters Price, he was born on June 22, 1957, in Grinnell. He received his education at Brooklyn-Guernsey-Malvern schools of Brooklyn where he participated in football and wrestling. He graduated from BGM High School in 1976, then attended Des Moines Community College for two years and Hawkeye Technical Institute of Waterloo for two years. He worked for Gladolfo of Wheeling, Ill., then returned to Grinnell 1 1/2 years ago to work as a technician in the college’s Computer Services.

Mr. Price was a member of St. Mary’s Catholic Church here.

He is survived by his mother; one brother, Bob of Des Moines; two sisters, Linda of Kirkville, Mo., and Christy of Grinnell; and his grandmother, Naomi Price of Brooklyn.

He was preceded in death by his father, his paternal grandfather and his maternal grandparents.