

Man Killed At First Avenue Crossing

John Plum Dies Instantly This Morning

Car Apparently Stalled On M. & St. L. Tracks; Youth Was From Malcom

John Leo Plum, 23, of Malcom was killed at 7:30 a. m. today when his 1936 Ford coupe apparently stalled in the path of M. & St. L. passenger train No. 100 at the crossing at the First avenue crossing.

Following an inquest, Coroner C. B. Phillips pronounced the death as instantaneous.

B. J. Reynolds of Marshalltown, who piloted the train, reported seeing the car stopped on the tracks as he approached the crossing from the south around the curve near Talbot and Olds at a speed of about 15 to 20 miles per hour. He applied the train's brakes instantly, but was unable to bring the train to a stop before the engine reached the Second avenue crossing.

Car Carried

The car was carried half way to the Second avenue crossing, tearing off a railroad signal before it was freed from the steps of the train on which it was thought to have caught. Plum's body was thrown from the car before it stopped.

Plum had just escorted his fiancee, Miss Irene Main, to the home of Miss Julia Wheeler, with whom she lives. The Wheeler house is adjacent to the First avenue crossing. Leaving there he had turned west across the tracks on First avenue when the accident occurred.

Plum lived with his mother, Mrs. Edna Plum, and three younger brothers and sisters on the Grover Jackson farm, one mile west of Malcom where he was assisting Mr. Jackson with the management of the farm. He was a nephew of Myron Charles and Bob Plum of Grinnell.

Raised in Sheridan

He was born in Tama county, but had been raised in the Sheridan community. His father, William Plum, preceded him in death in April, 1947, as did another brother who died in 1934.

In addition to his mother, he is survived by 12 brothers and sisters, Mrs. Nigel Walters of Sheridan; Mrs. Albert Kremenak and Marion of Toledo; Reynolds, Walter and Jim of Grinnell; Lester of Malcom; William, Jr., of Ottumwa; Kenneth in the navy in California, and Julia, Milo and Max at home.

Funeral arrangements have not been completed, pending word from Kenneth but information may be obtained from Smith Funeral Home.