

John Dhondt killed

H-R September 17, 1979

in one-car crash

John Leslie Dhondt, 22 of rural Grinnell died Friday evening when the car he was driving struck a bridge abutment and burst into flames.

The accident occurred 3½ miles west of Newburg on a Jasper County road. Authorities said the Dhondt car veered off the road and, after striking the bridge abutment, went into a creek bed.

Dr. Fred Carpenter, Jasper County medical examiner, pronounced Dhondt dead at the scene.

The Mass of the Resurrection for John Dhondt will be celebrated at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday at St. Mary's Catholic Church, with burial at Hazelwood Cemetery. The Vigil Service will be conducted at 7:30 o'clock tonight at the Smith Funeral Home, where friends may call.

The son of Garold and Rose Dhondt, he was born April 6, 1957, at Newton. He attended Grinnell schools, graduating from Grinnell High School in 1975.

While attending school, he was active in athletics, lettering in wrestling and football. He also was a member of the Honor-G Club and the Key Club, as well as 4-H.



John Dhondt

Following high school, he attended Wartburg College at Waverly, where he also a member of the wrestling team.

Since 1977, he had farmed with his parents near Rock Creek Lake and was recently employed by Dieseth Specialty Co., working on Interstate 80.

Survivors include his parents; his brother and sisters, Michelle Dhondt of Iowa City, Steven Dhondt of Iowa City, and Beatrice Dhondt of Cedar Rapids; and his grandmother Mrs. Johnnie (Helen) Dhondt of Grinnell.

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Rites held for John Dhondt

The Mass of the Resurrection for John Leslie Dhondt, who died Friday evening in a one-car crash west of Newburg, was celebrated at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday at St. Mary's Catholic Church. *SEPT. 14*

The Rev. Harry Linnenbrink, pastor of the church, officiated. Organist was Joyce Wedlock, and pallbearers were Terry Bailey, Pat Burke, Phil Clark, John Light, Mike St. Mary and Tom Staecker. Honorary pallbearers were Dick Emmert, Gene Fenske, Bill Gilbreath, Lary Grassmeier, Willie Lipman and Ron Quigley.

Flower bearers were Cindy Bailey, Mary Jo Dayton, Lori Everist, Brenda Gilbreath and Gloria Kerber.

The Scripture service was conducted at 7:30 p.m. Monday at the Smith Funeral Home.

Burial was at Hazelwood Cemetery.

The son of Garold and Rose Hernandez Dhondt, he was born April 6, 1957, at Newton.

He was raised on the family farm near Rock Creek Lake and attended Grinnell schools, graduating from Grinnell High School in 1975. While in school, he was active in wrestling and football, Honor "G" Club, Key Club and 4-H.

Following high school, he attended Wartburg College in Waverly, where he was a member of the wrestling team. Since 1977, he had farmed with his parents on the family farm west of Grinnell, and during the summer months he was associated with the Dieseth Specialty Co., a highway sign contractor, and with Merritt Building Contractors. He was a member of St. Mary's Catholic Church, the Victor Grange, and the Iowa Rodeo Association.

Survivors include his parents; a brother, Steven; two sisters, Mechelle and Beatrice; and both of his grandmothers, Mrs. Johnnie Dhondt of Grinnell and Mrs. C. Hernandez of Pueblo, Colo.