

Grinnell man dies as fire sweeps through bedroom

H-R 3-20-78

A Grinnell man died Friday night when flames swept through the bedroom and attic of his two-story frame home at 408 Broad St.

John J. Fleming, 60, was pronounced dead by Poweshiek County Medical Examiner Dr. Robert Carney. No autopsy was planned, Carney said.

Authorities said Fleming was alone in the house at the time of the blaze. It was not immediately clear whether he had died prior to the time flames broke out or if death was the result of the fire itself. The body was badly burned.

Firemen responded to the call at about 11 p.m.

"Flames were pouring out of the windows when we got there," fireman Giles Jay said. "But the place didn't burn to the ground. Most of the damage was concentrated around the bedroom and attic."

It was not until after 1:30 a.m. Saturday that firemen were able to return to the station.

Investigators from the office of the state fire marshal were due in Grinnell Saturday to probe the cause of the blaze.

Funeral services for John Fleming will be held at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday at St. Mary's Catholic Church. The Scripture Service will be at 7:30 p.m. today at the Smith Funeral Home. Graveside services will be conducted by members of the Grinnell Veterans Ceremonial Unit, with burial at Hazelwood Cemetery. Should friends desire, memorials in Mr. Fleming's name may be left at the Smith Funeral Home.

Obituary

The son of Patrick and Leila Cook Fleming, he was born Feb. 7, 1918, in Grinnell. He

attended school here and later was inducted into the U.S. Army and served during World War II.

On May 24, 1941, he was married to Margaret Ann Roe in Missouri. Following their marriage, they lived in Grinnell where Mr. Fleming was associated with Morrison-Shults Glove Factory and worked for 27 years with Lennox Industries in Grinnell and Marshalltown.

Following the death of his wife in 1953, Mr. Fleming was married to Barbara Bladt on July 14, 1956, in Newton. Mr. Fleming had recently worked as a custodian for Davis School. He was a member of the Focht-Tennant American Legion Post here and was formerly a member of the

Grinnell V.F.W.

He is survived by his children, John Fleming II of Grinnell, Patricia Pletz of Kellogg, Mrs. Henry (Marcia) Allspach of Newton, Daniel Fleming of Grinnell, Patrick J. Fleming of Grinnell, Mrs. Ron (Mary) Reedy of Malcom, Michael Fleming of Grinnell, and Anna Fleffing of Grinnell; 10 grandchildren; and five sisters, Mrs. Don (Elaine) Dean of Marshalltown, Mrs. Bill (Helen) Noel of Grinnell, Mrs. Roy (Elna) Temple of Council Bluffs, Mrs. Don (Kathy) Saville of Ellsworth, and Mrs. Gordon (Ardene) McKeag of Marshalltown. He was preceded in death of his wives, his parents, a granddaughter, and an brother.

Fleming rites held Tuesday

March 17, 1978

Funeral services for John J. Fleming Sr., 60, of Grinnell, were held at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, March 21, at St. Mary's Catholic Church.

The Rev. Harry Linnenbrink, pastor of St. Mary's, and the Rev. John F. Saville, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church in Shaller, Iowa, officiated. Organist for the service was Kathleen Heffner.

Pallbearers were Cliff Duncan, Bob Jones, Jerry Phipps, George Roe, Dick Roe, and Arlo F. Taylor.

Graveside rites were conducted by members of the Grinnell Veterans Ceremonial Unit. Burial was in Hazelwood Cemetery.

Memorials may be left at Smith Funeral Home.