

H.R.  
Thursday, August 9, 1962

## Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Icken Succumb Following Explosion In Farm Home

Two Grinnell area residents died Wednesday evening at an Iowa City hospital of burns received last Friday night when a gas water heater exploded at their farm home.

Victims were Edwin and Wilhelmina Icken, who came to this country only about two years ago from Indonesia. They were the parents of six children, ranging in age from six years to one month.

Joint funeral services are tentatively planned for 2:30 p. m. Friday at the First Congregational church with the Rev. Robert Dewey, pastor, officiating. Interment will be in Hazelwood cemetery.

Friends may call at the James-Schalinske Funeral Home.

The Ickens resided on the James McKibben farm southwest of Grinnell. It is believed they were attempting to light the hot water heater when it exploded, inflicting burns over 80 per cent of their bodies.

Both were rushed to a Grinnell hospital and then transferred to Iowa City that same day. Mrs. Icken died at 7:18 p. m. Wednesday and her husband succumbed less than one hour later, at 8:14 p. m.

Survivors include their six children. Mr. Icken is also survived by a brother, Harry, also of Grinnell.

H.R.  
Monday, August 13, 1962

## Joint Services Conducted For Grinnell Couple

Joint funeral services were held Friday afternoon from the First Congregational church, for Edward J. and Wilhelmina J. Icken, area farm couple who died Wednesday at an Iowa City hospital of burns received in an accident at their home.

Officiating at the services was the Rev. Robert Dewey, pastor of the church. Organ music was provided by Norman Goodbrod.

Pallbearers were Paul Labieniec, Dwight Carey, Jim B. McKibben, Clarence Van Zant, Edward Nikkel, Jim McNally, Montano Rugebregt, Marty O'Connor, Wilbur Eystone, F. W. Tomasek, Ed McNally, and Leroy Smith. Interment was in Hazelwood cemetery with James-Schalinske Funeral Home in charge.

The Ickens had gone to the basement of their farm home to light a water heater when the tragedy occurred. Mr. Icken struck a match and apparently this touched off gas which had somehow seeped into the basement. They suffered burns over 80 per cent of their bodies.

Mr. Icken was born October 9, 1930, in Malang, East Java, and Mrs. Icken was born February 15, 1937, in Rotterdam, Holland. They were married in Holland and came to the United States on April 11, 1960, and had since made their home in Grinnell.

They are survived by their six children, Gregory, Joan, James, Orson, Stanley and Oscar.

Mrs. Icken is also survived by her mother and two sisters of Zeist, Holland. Mr. Icken is also survived by his brothers, Harry of Grinnell, Fred and Chris of Holland; his sister, Erna Regner of Australia, and his father.