

Marshal Killed Saturday

John Leivens, 57, Is County's 2nd Traffic Fatality; Pinned By Auto

H-R 11-4-57

Poweshiek county's second traffic fatality of 1957 was chalked up Saturday night in a freakish series of accidents involving at least one-half dozen vehicles on Highway 6 about four and 1/4 miles east of Grinnell.

Rain Falling

Killed was Brooklyn night marshal John Leivens, 57, who was pinned between the front of a wrecker being used at the accident scene and another automobile driven by Wayne Paul of Brooklyn. The accident occurred shortly after 8:00 p.m. as a light rain was falling and visibility was poor. Leivens was apparently killed instantly.

Leivens' death came as the result of a chain of events which started earlier in the evening when a semi-truck became stalled on the highway. A wrecker was dispatched from Grinnell and the truck was pulled onto the highway.

Series Of Accidents

As the truck and wrecker came on the road another car driven by August Lacaeyse of Brooklyn appeared on the scene from the east and when Lacaeyse attempted to avoid collision, his auto skidded on the wet pavement and struck the wrecker causing minor damages to the front of the Lacaeyse machine.

A few minutes later, at about 7:07 p.m., Reney Van Tomme of Montezuma was passing the truck which was being pulled out. His car was then struck from the rear by another driven by Edward Graham of Brooklyn. The Graham car plunged down a steep embankment and was heavily damaged. Extensive damages also resulted to the Van Tomme auto.

Hospitalized

Van Tomme's wife and daughter

ter were both hospitalized while he and his son escaped injury. Graham was taken to a Grinnell hospital for observation.

While Highway Patrolman Gerald Kahler, Sheriff Bill Welsh and Deputy Roy Peery were inspecting the situation and attempting to clear the accident scene, Marshall Leivens arrived with the wrecker from Brooklyn to tow away the Graham car. Leivens was giving the other officers assistance in directing traffic.

Hit From Behind

As the Brooklyn wrecker was fastening on to the Graham car, Leivens allowed Mr. and Mrs. Lavern Loftin, also of Brooklyn, to pass and the Loftin car had just pulled ahead slowly when it was hit from behind by another being operated by Wayne Paul, Brooklyn.

The impact caved in the rear of the Loftin auto and sent it hurtling across the highway. Meanwhile, the Paul auto swung around and the rear of the machine pinned Marshal Leivens to the front of the wrecker. An ambulance arrived shortly afterwards but the marshal had already been pronounced dead by county coroner Rex Bramer.

Traffic Tied Up

Traffic was tied up on the highway for a considerable distance in either direction on the highway for approximately one hour following the fatal accident.

Funeral services for John Leivens will be held at 10:00 a.m. Tuesday at St. Patrick's Catholic church at Brooklyn. Rosary will be at 8:00 p.m. tonight (Monday) from the Bramer Funeral home, also at Brooklyn.

Interment will be in the Catholic cemetery.