Warren McDowell Victim

Interstate Crash Kills Local Man

A fiery truck accident on Interstate 80, near the Victor Interchange in Linn County, claimed the life of a Grinnell man, Warren R. McDowell.

McDowell died Wednesday morning at an Iowa City hospital several hours after the Tuesday night crash.

An employee of Miracle Equipment Co. of Grinnell, McDowell was eastbound on the interstate when he apparently fell asleep and the truck left the road and plunged down an embankment.

The crash cut a path in one of the truck's fuel tanks and it exploded and caught fire. McDowell was thrown from the truck, according to eye witnesses, his body singed black and his arm and hand burned.

Rushed to a Marshalltown hospital, he was then transferred to Iowa City where he succumbed.

The Victor Fire Department was summoned to the scene and fought the truck blaze for several hours before it was extinguished. The truck and its contents of plastic playground equipment were destroyed. Damage estimated at in excess of $5,000.

Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Friday from the Smith Funeral Home with the Rev. William Harris, pastor of the Northside Friends church, officiating. Oboe music will be by Mrs. C. C. Williamson.

 Pallbearers will be Carl Butler, Owen Deoninger, Gary Fain, Richard Lasky, Raymond Puls, and Stanley Pult. American Legion services will be conducted.

The son of William O. and Eva Stanley McDowell, he was born in Marshalltown on June 29, 1928. He lived with his family near Searsboro until he was six years old and then lived in Mahaska county, near O-Kawona.

In 1952, he enlisted in the U.S. Army and served during the Korean Conflict with Co. B of the 71st Signal Battalion in Japan until his discharge two years later. On April 22, 1955, he was married to Barbara Innis in Lancaster, Mo., and to this union were born two daughters, Laura Lee, 11, and Kimberly Ann, 2, both of the family home.

Mr. McDowell was a member of the Eagles Lodge and Fort Totten Post No. 53 of the American Legion and attended the Northside Friends church. He had been employed the last few years with the Miracle Equipment Plant of Grinnell.

Surviving are his widow, Barbara; two daughters; two brothers; two sisters, lanman McDowell and Warren McDowell, both of Mahaska County; and a sister, Mrs. Ernest (Bette) Courtney of Lisbon. Also surviving are a half brother, Virgil McDowell of Fenton, Mich., and a half sister, Mrs. Kenneth (Esther) Marie Wiles of Linden, Mich.

He was preceded in death by his mother in 1954 and his father.