

Crash Near Gilman

Malcom And Gilman Boys Die In Wreck

Eldon Pearce, Howard Hill Are Victims; Four Others Are Hospitalized

Two area youths were killed and four others injured as the result of a two-car head-on crash one mile east of Gilman on Highway 146 about 10:30 p.m. Friday.

Dead

Killed instantly were Eldon G. Pearce, 19, of Malcom, and Howard D. Hill, 21, of Gilman. Injured and hospitalized were Dean Kriegel, 19, Malcom; Bob Weitzel, 24, Malcom; Roger Peters, 18, Grinnell, and Gene Daugherty, 19, Gilman. The injured youths were all rushed to Grinnell hospitals and on Saturday Weitzel was transferred to Iowa City for further treatment.

Level Highway

Scene of the death crash was a straight, level stretch of highway, and visibility was clear. Investigating officers have not been able to determine the exact cause of the crash.

Pearce was a passenger in a 1957 model auto driven by Kriegel. Also in the Kriegel car were Peters and Weitzel. Hill was riding in a 1954 model car driven by Daugherty. Both of the dead youths were riding in the front seat on the side opposite the driver.

Can't Recall Crash

Highway Patrolman James Leuder said that none of the survivors were able to recall any of the details or events just prior to the crash. Leuder interrogated the men at Grinnell hospitals on the day following the smash-up.

Leuder said that skid marks of the Kriegel vehicle were visible for a measured distance of 141 feet on the highway. There were no visible skid marks made by the Daugherty auto.

The two cars met head-on but remained right side up after spinning around and facing the opposite direction on the road.

Returning Home

It is believed that the youths in the Kriegel car were returning home after attending a basketball game at Van Cleave. It is not known where the Daugherty car was going.

Both cars were completely demolished. Leuder indicated that no charges were filed immediately but that there was a possibility that certain charges might be made following a complete investigation.

Injuries

Extent of injuries and conditions of the survivors are as follows:

Kriegel: compound fractures of the leg and elbow and multiple cuts of the face, hands, and knees. Condition fair.

Weitzel: fractured jaw and arm. Condition fair.

Peters: possible internal injuries and suffering from shock. Condition good.

Daugherty: broken leg and cuts on the face. Condition good.

Pearce Rites

Eldon G. Pearce was born Feb. 28, 1936 at Grinnell and was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Pearce of near Malcom.

He was a lifetime resident of Poweshiek county and was associated with his father in the operation of the Pearce Implement store at Grinnell.

Funeral services were conducted today (Monday) from the Smith Funeral home with the Rev. Loren Parker, minister of the Malcom Presbyterian church officiating.

Interment was at Westfield cemetery.

Services Pending

Howard D. Hill was born Feb. 3, 1936, at Gilman and his parents are Mr. and Mrs. Bertram Hill of Gilman.

He attended school at Gilman and was a member of the Gilman Community church.

Funeral arrangements are pending at the Estal-Perrin Funeral home at Marshalltown.