

Thursday, May 7, 1970

Area Farmer Dies in Freak Grass Blaze

Raymond W. Phoms, 46, of No. 1, Grinnell, was found dead Monday afternoon at the scene of a grass fire on a farm adjoining his own.

Poweshiek County Medical Examiner Dr. Kenneth Clawed of Montezuma said Tuesday that an autopsy showed Phoms' death to be the result of an aortic aneurysm heart attack or stroke and was suspected cancer.

Deputy Sheriff Wayne E. Hays said Phoms and a neighbor were to burn some brush on the farm, but that the fire soon got out of control into the "Kinnick" weeds farm. Mrs. Phoms, who had a mother-in-lawward on the field, found her husband surrounded by flames. She called a neighbor and a fire department, but the fire was too big to control.

Marion, Ill. Phoms, married Adkins, who had one son, Phoms, earned his living as a farmer.

The son of Phoms and Marie Gilbert Phoms, a daughter, Don, 14, 1928, at Rock Falls, T. and J. Jasper County. He attended the Grinnell Public School, later at

served in Korea with the 334th Truck Co. from 1945 to 1947. On Oct. 29, 1948, he married Mary Schultz in Montezuma.

For 10 years he was employed by Hubert & Oids Feed Co., and later farmed until his death. He was a member of the Church of Christ.

Survivors include his wife; three children, Gary Ray, 19, Dianne Marie, 11, and Randall Lee, nine; a sister, Mrs. Roy (Pauline) Turner of Ellettsville, Ind.; and three brothers, Donald and Hollis of Grinnell and Richard Phoms Shaw of Tipton, Iowa. He was preceded in death by his parents; one brother, Paul; and two sisters, Edna and Bernice.

Funeral services were held at 10 a.m. Wednesday at the Smith Funeral Home with Nelson Swartzson as officiant. Local music was provided by Mrs. William Herber, organist, and Mrs. Gene Turner, vocalist.

The casket included Gerald Nelson, Ray, Bernice, Dick Crawford, Ken Anderson, Alan Meyer and Dale See. Burial was in Hazelwood cemetery.