

Miles West of Grinnell

George Roe, William Wetterlind Die in Head-On Collision Friday

H-R Sep 30, 1957

George H. Roe, 61, of Grinnell and William Henry Wetterlind, 26, of Newton were killed in a head-on auto crash Friday evening on Highway 6 about three miles west of Grinnell. The fatal accident took place just over the line in Jasper county, in front of the Verlin Adkins farm, about 6:20 p.m.

On Wrong Side

Jasper County Sheriff Ed Scoville, investigating officer, said

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Wetterlind apparently made too wide a sweep while rounding a curve and was on the wrong side of the road at the time of the crash.

Skid marks indicated Roe apparently set his brakes, seeing his car was about to be struck. The Roe car was stopped at the point of impact. Wetterlind's car plunged forward more than 100 feet before it went

into the ditch and overturned, the sheriff reported.

Died Instantly

Roe, an employee of the glove factory in Grinnell, was headed east. He was killed instantly. Wetterlind, an employee of the Maytag company in Newton, was headed west. Wetterlind died a few minutes after the accident, the sheriff said.

There was an eye-witness to the accident. Willard G. Kaldenberg of 904 Forty-fifth street, Des Moines, told highway patrolmen he was following the east-bound Roe car and also saw the oncoming car in the wrong lane.

Sheriff Scoville said Kaldenberg's quick thinking saved his own life. Kaldenberg was being followed by a semi and if he had suddenly stopped his car to avoid the collision in front of him he would have run the risk of being hit by the semi. Instead, Kaldenberg drove his car off on the road shoulder and finally stopped his car in the ditch.

Assisting Officers

Assisting Sheriff Scoville at the accident scene were Poweshiek County Sheriff Bill Welsh, Police Chief Earl Brown of Grinnell, and Highway Patrolmen Paul Gearhart of Poweshiek county, Gordon Dodds and Bernley Noble of Jasper county, and Patrolman Schawl of Mar-engo.

The highway deaths made 14 highway fatalities in Jasper county this year compared to only nine this time last year, Sheriff Scoville reported.

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Funeral services for George Roe will be held Tuesday at 2 p.m. from the James Funeral Home with the Rev. C. E. Kingsley and the Rev. G. S. Bruland officiating. Interment will be at Hazelwood cemetery.

Son of Robert and Barbara Lawson Roe, he was born at What Cheer on June 23, 1897 and came to Grinnell as a youth. He was married to Edith Halterman on June 27, 1916, at Grinnell and was superintendent of the Morrison-Shulls Mfg. Co., where he had been employed the past 48 years.

He was a member of the First Baptist church, Elks Lodge and Odd Fellows.

Survivors include his wife; two daughters, Mrs. Don (Jane) Morten of Garden Grove, Calif., Mrs. Clifford (Barbara) Duncan of Grinnell; and three sons, George of Kellogg, Charles of Seattle, Wash., and Richard of Laras, Puerto Rico.

He was preceded in death by one daughter, Margaret Ann Fleming in December of 1953, his parents and one sister.

Rites for William Henry Wetterlind of Newton were held this afternoon at Newton.

He is survived by his wife, a 5-year-old son, his father, and one sister.