Tew victim of apparent drowning

A Grinnell man apparently drowned Saturday while fishing at a farm pond west of Grinnell.

Rescue crews recovered the body of Clayton E. Tew, 81, of 539 Tenth Ave., shortly after 10 p.m. Saturday after dragging the pond for several hours, according to Grinnell Fire Chief Jerry Barns.

Tew went to the farm pond on the property of Bill and Marjorie Doyle, 162 380th Ave., at about 3 p.m. Although Tew’s pickup truck was near the pond, there was no sign of him or his boat about two hours later.

Eight Grinnell volunteers and six from Kellogg then began the search, using a pair of boats and dragging equipment.

They recovered Tew’s body in about 10 feet of water, Barns said.

Poweshiek County Medical Examiner J.B. Paulson was investigating, and an autopsy was scheduled to be conducted in Des Moines to determine the exact cause of death.

Barns said rescuers first discovered the boat, winched it from the water, then found Tew’s body a short distance away.

Tew, a retired carpenter, was active in Boy Scouts and Habitat for Humanity projects.

Funeral services will be held at 1:30 p.m. Thursday at the First Baptist Church, with burial at Hazelwood Cemetery.

Friends may call at the Smith Funeral Home beginning at 9 a.m. Wednesday, and the family will be present at the funeral home from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Wednesday.

Among survivors are his wife, Bonnie; one son, Randall of Mary Esther, Fla.; and three daughters, Judith Richards of Indianola, Barbara Anderson of Farson, Wyo., and Carolyn Wilson of Flower Mound, Texas.

He was a member of the First Baptist Church, the Izaak Walton League and the Grinnell Board of Adjustment. He was also involved in Habitat for Humanity. He was associated with Boy Scouts of America for many years, serving with Troops 313 and 381. He was a district-at-large member of the organization since 1960.

Surviving are his wife; one son, Randall J. of Mary Esther, Fla.; three daughters, Judith K. Richards of Indianola, Barbara A. Anderson of Farson, Wyo., and Carolyn L. Wilson of Flower Mound, Texas; 10 grandchildren; four great-grandsons; and one sister, Charlotte Press of Springdale, Ark.

He was preceded in death by one son, Jerry E., and a sister, Frances Johnson.

Memorials may be directed to the First Baptist Church of Grinnell or to Boy Scouts of Grinnell.

Clayton Tew

Clayton E. Tew, 81, of 539 Tenth Ave., Grinnell, died of accidental drowning Saturday, Sept. 14, at a farm pond west of Grinnell.

Funeral services were held Thursday afternoon at the Grinnell First Baptist Church, with the Rev. Tim Stewart officiating. Organist was Denise Baustian, and vocalist was Rich Thorson. Casket bearers were Dr. Robert Baumann, Bill Burk, Howard Raffety, John Richards, Earl Steward, Paul Stone, Carter Thomson and Mark Wilson. Honorary bearers were members of the Boy Scouts, Harold Brown, Donovan Evans, Melvin Kasal, Chuck McAttee, Tom Selle, Virgil Stone and Keith Voeburg.

The Grinnell Veterans Ceremonial Unit conducted graveside rites at Hazelwood Cemetery. The Smith Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

He was born March 13, 1921, in Grinnell to Everett and Florence Evans Tew. He was a 1940 graduate of Grinnell High School. During World War II, he served with the U.S. Army in the Pacific Theater.

He was married to Bonnie Elertsen April 13, 1947, in Grinnell. The couple lived in Grinnell, and Mr. Tew owned and operated Tew Construction Company.