

Victor Varnum dies in crash

H-R June 14, 1982

Victor V. Varnum, 74, owner and operator of the Tama Airport, died Saturday evening, June 5, of injuries he sustained in a plane crash south of Tama.

Funeral services were conducted Wednesday, June 9, at the Harrison Funeral Home in Tama, with the Rev. Robert Newberg, pastor of the United Methodist Church, officiating. Burial was at Oak Hill Cemetery.

Members of the Tama Volunteer Fire Department participated in the ceremony, forming a line as the casket was carried from the funeral home.

Authorities said Mr. Varnum was killed instantly in the crash of his Cessna 170B aircraft. Cause of the crash is under investigation.

The son of Clark and Eva Varnum, he was born Jan. 11, 1908, in Chicago. He attended elementary school in Michigan and graduated from Malcom High School in 1925.

He was married to Mary Ohland on June 18, 1933, in Malcom. The couple moved to Tama in 1935, where Mr. Varnum worked for Iowa Electric Light and Power Co. as an electrician. He retired from that

position in 1973.

He was a member of the Tama Volunteer Fire Department since 1937, serving as chief from 1950 through 1958.

He owned and managed the Tama Airport and had obtained his private pilot's license in 1947. For 14 years he taught aviation ground school courses in the South Tama adult education program. He was a member of Air Lifeline, Inc., Cedar Rapids chapter, a non-profit organization of volunteer pilots who fly blood, organs, medical supplies and personnel to locations throughout Iowa.

He was also a member of the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association, the Cessna 170 Club, and the Experimental Aircraft Association.

Survivors include his wife; two daughters, Edith Nekola of Cedar Rapids and Marietta Schutte of Batavia, Ill.; three grandchildren; and two brothers, Laurent K. Varnum of Palm Beach, Fla., and P.D. Varnum of Grinnell.

A former resident of Grinnell, Mr. Varnum had worked for Iowa Southern Utilities Co. here.