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Baustian

May 28, 1965

Grinnellian Dies After No. 6 Wreck

**Cars Collide 2 Mi. East
Thursday at 5:15 p.m.;
Details Are Lacking**

A widely-known retired farmer, Elmer G. Baustian, 64, of 1508 Fifth avenue, Grinnell, became Poweshiek county's first highway fatality of the year when he died at a local hospital at 7:40 p.m. Thursday of injuries received in a head-on crash 2 miles east of Grinnell on No. 6 at 5:15 that evening.

Baustian's 1951 Mercury coupe collided with a 1951 Pontiac four-door driven by Frederick M. Evans, 29, of Des Moines.

Lung Punctured

Driven with great force against the steering wheel by the impact, the Grinnell man died as the result of a punctured lung. Baustian also suffered a severe laceration of the throat.

Evans, a state department of public health employee, was thrown from his car but not seriously injured. Although knocked unconscious, he suffered only cuts and bruises and a blow on the head. Evans was released from the hospital after observation and proceeded on his way by bus about 7:30 p.m.

Circumstances Indefinite

Highway Patrolman Gerald Kahler and Sheriff Bill Welsh, who investigated the tragic accident, said Friday that there is no definite information available as to exactly how the collision occurred.

Baustian was traveling west, returning to Grinnell, while Evans was eastbound. In front of Evans were an unidentified black Chevrolet and a Farm Service company truck driven by Johnny Puls.

Came by Truck

Puls told police investigating authorities that he had his truck paused on the highway, waiting to turn north onto the gravel when Baustian came by. He recalls waving to the Grinnell man, then as soon as he turned his truck onto the gravel he heard the crash.

Stopping and running over to the highway immediately, Puls was the first at the scene of the accident. Driver of the black Cheve, apparently unaware of the crash, continued on north, after turning onto the gravel ahead of Puls.

Evans Dazed

Evans was so dazed at first that he couldn't even remember which way he was going. His mind cleared enough later to tell that he was eastbound from Des Moines; he also recalled something vague about a truck in front of him but could not give circumstances regarding the collision.

Baustian was not able to give any testimony.

The Thursday wreck in which the front ends of both cars were heavily damaged was the first serious-injury accident on the east stretch of new No. 6 since it was opened in September.

Only previous death this year involving a vehicle in the county did not occur on the highway. Fred G. Townsend, Brooklyn marshal, was killed when a city truck was struck by a train in Brooklyn.

Funeral Held Sunday

Funeral services were held at 2:30 p.m. Sunday in the Sheridan Methodist church. Sunday

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Elmer G. Baustian

Head-On Crash --

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would have been his 65th birthday.

Clergymen were Rev. Llo Knouf, of Malcom and Rev. John Rhodes of LeGrand. Prebearers were George Baustian, Gene Broders, Merle Broder, Walter Hanssen, Merle Harr and Farrell Siehl. Mrs. Wayre Reams, Mrs. Raymond Schul and Mrs. Foster Walcott were in charge of flowers.

Music was provided by Lorin Rohr who was accompanied by Mrs. Willard Heffner. Burial was in Sheridan cemetery. Grinnell Elks conducted a memorial service at the grave with Robert Ray in charge.

Obituary

Elmer G. Baustian was born in Malcom township on May 24, 1889, the son of George and Philippina Eisele Baustian. He had lived in Poweshiek county all his life. For many years he farmed in Sheridan township, moving to Grinnell a year ago. On Jan. 24, 1912, he was united in marriage with Myrtle Broders, who survives him with four children, Lola, Mrs. Richard Sears, of Chester township; Donald of Malcom; Doris, Mrs. Harry Armstrong of Warren, Ill.; and Ruth, Mrs. James Higdon, of Route 1, Grinnell. There is also one brother, B. E. Baustian of Malcom.

An active and friendly man, Mr. Baustian was a member of the Farm Bureau and the Odd Fellow and Elks lodges.