

One killed, two injured in ^{H-8} _{March 7, 1977}

Friday crash near Brooklyn

KENNETH M. BENSON

A Montezuma man was killed in a car accident some 2½ miles south of Brooklyn Friday evening, March 4. The driver of the car and another passenger were injured in the crash.

Kenneth M. Benson, 21, a passenger in the car with two friends, Kevin D. Erquist, 18, of Montezuma, the driver, and Thomas L. Berry, 21, another

passenger. The Erquist car was northbound on county road V-18 where, the highway patrol accident report says, it failed to negotiate a curve, hit a driveway and rolled over several times. All three of the car's occupants were thrown from the car.

Erquist is in critical condition in University Hospitals in Iowa City with multiple

injuries, after being transferred from Grinnell General Hospital. Berry is in fair condition at the Grinnell hospital.

Benson's death is the county's first traffic fatality of the year. Funeral arrangements are pending at Steffy Funeral Home in Montezuma.

H-8 March 10, 1977

Benson services held Tuesday

Funeral services for Kenneth M. Benson, who died in a car accident south of Brooklyn on Saturday, March 4, were held at St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Brooklyn on Tuesday, March 8 at 10 a.m.

Father Patrick McCoy officiated over the services. Neal Purdum provided organ music. Pall-bearers were Richard Doll, Gary McKeag, Dave Sutherland Jr., Bill Septer, Mark Hilleman, and Kenneth Gauley. Burial was in Jackson Township Cemetery in Montezuma.

Kenneth Benson was the son of Mark and Ardelle Townsend Benson, born in Grinnell on

July 21, 1955. He attended elementary school in Kellogg and graduated from Montezuma Community High School with the class of 1973.

After his graduation, he worked for Sutherland Printing in Montezuma. He was married in 1975 to Diane Van Gorp. They made their home in Montezuma while he continued to work for Sutherland.

He is survived by his wife, Diane; his mother; three sisters, Bonnie Sparks of the Philippines, and Jean Ulrey and Barb Wilcox of Montezuma; four brothers, Carroll and Don of Kellogg and Steve and Stan of Montezuma; and a grandfather, Gene Townsend of Newton. He was preceded in death by his father.