

## Freak Mishap Claims Life Of

### Montezuma Man, 1957

A Montezuma man, Richard Ferguson, 70, lost his life in a freak accident at Lake Diamond, which serves as the city's reservoir, Thursday afternoon.

His body was found hanging head down from a tree at the north end of the lake about 5:30 p.m. by Sammy Gorsuch and his son, Bob, and Billy Hudson of Montezuma rural route.

Authorities said that Ferguson, an ardent sportsman who went fishing practically every day, apparently was casting his line when it became snagged in the tree.

When he climbed into the tree to free the line, it is believed his leg became caught in the crotch of the tree, and in trying to free it he lost his hold, permitting his body to swing downward in a helpless position.

Born at Olivet, in western Mahaska county, in December, 1878, he was one of 13 children, of whom one brother and three sisters survive. Also surviving are his wife; one daughter, Mrs. Leon Robb of Waterloo and one grandson, Allen Robb.

Mr. and Mrs. Ferguson ob-

served their 50th wedding anniversary in 1953. Funeral arrangements are pending at Sterby funeral home.