

# Is Victim Of Strange Mishap

Frank Jiricek Receives Fatal Injuries  
From Explosion While Blasting  
Tree Stumps.

PROSPEROUS RETIRED FARMER  
OF VICTOR NEIGHBORHOOD.

Skull Is So Seriously Fractured That  
Death Follows a Few Hours  
After Accident.

Frank Jiricek, a wealthy retired farmer of Victor, received accidental injuries Monday forenoon about 11 o'clock that resulted in his death at 6:15 Monday evening at St. Francis hospital in Grinnell, where he had been taken.

Mr. Jiricek and his nephew, Ed Nowotny, had gone to the woods southeast of Carnforth to cut some timber. They had felled a large tree and sawed it into six-foot lengths, which they split into sections with blasting powder. Mr. Jiricek had bored a hole into a large log, tamped in the charge and lighted the fuse. There was no explosion for several seconds, and he started toward the log to relight the fuse. His nephew shouted a warning, but it was disregarded, or he failed to hear it. Just as Mr. Jiricek stooped to relight the fuse, this time inserting it in his pipe, an explosion occurred and he received the full force of it on his forehead. He was knocked down unconscious and his nephew, thinking he was dead, ran to Carnforth to telephone to Victor for help.

C. J. Raffensperger and E. L. McAnich were the first to respond. When they reached the scene, the injured man had been able to raise himself from the ground and was sitting on a log. Hugh McIlrath of Carnforth was among the helpers who assisted in getting Jiricek into the car and he was taken at once to the hospital.

An examination by hospital physicians revealed a serious skull fracture in the center of the forehead and other injuries which made it almost certain that there was no chance of recovery. The injured man lingered for several hours, and passed away at 6:15 p. m.

Mr. Jiricek was born March 18, 1861, in Austria. At the age of 11, he came with his parents, two brothers and a sister to America. They located first in Tama county where they lived for a number of years. When Mr. Jiricek attained his majority and began to farm for himself he located in Poweshiek county on a farm southwest of Victor. He was married to Elizabeth Nowotny and together they tilled the soil and prospered. About 21 years ago they retired from active work and moved to Victor where the wife passed to her reward 16 years ago. Only one child was born to them, a son, who died in infancy. After the death of his wife Mr. Jiricek continued to keep up his home here, living alone. All the immediate members of the family except one brother, W. C. Jiricek of Mt. Airy, Iowa, have preceded him in death.

Frank was a familiar personage in Victor, where every one admired his rugged honesty and strength of character. His rough exterior held a tender heart and only those closely associated with him could appreciate his many excellent qualities as a man and a friend. At the Raffensperger store, where he delighted to serve as a helper or to make himself useful in any emergency, his death ended a friendly association of many years, and the shock of his passing is a severe blow to the store force, as well as to all his many friends.