

Thursday, December 8, 1966

Warren McDowell Victim

Interstate Crash Kills Local Man

A fiery truck accident on Interstate 80 near the Victor interchange in Iowa county claimed the life of a Grinnell man, Warren R. McDowell, 38.

McDowell died Wednesday morning at an Iowa City hospital several hours after the Tuesday night crash.

An employee of Miracle Equipment Co. of Grinnell, McDowell was eastbound on the Interstate when he apparently fell asleep and the truck left the road and plunged down an embankment.

The crash cut a gash in one of the truck's fuel tanks and it exploded and caught fire. McDowell was thrown from the truck. According to eye witnesses, his clothing caught fire and he ran for about 50 yards down the fence line before collapsing.

Rushed to a Marengo hospital, he was then transferred to Iowa City where he succumbed.

The Victor Fire Department was summoned to the scene and fought the truck blaze for several hours before it was extinguished. The truck and its contents of plastic playground equipment were destroyed. Damages were estimated at in excess of \$10,000.

Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Friday from the Smith Funeral Home with the Rev. Myron Harris, pastor of the Northside Friends church, officiating. Organ music will be by Mrs. L. V. Willison.

Pallbearers will be Carl Butler, Ozo Dearing, Gary Fain, Richard Lange, Raymond Puls, and Shirley Puls. American Legion graveside rites will be conducted

by William K. Richardson, commander, and Jack Day, chaplain, and members of Focht-Tennant Post, No. 53 of the Grinnell American Legion.

Interment will be in Hazelwood cemetery and friends may call at the Smith Funeral Home.

The son of William O. and Eva Stanley McDowell, he was born near Searsboro on June 20, 1928. He lived with his family near Searsboro until he was six years old and then lived in Mahaska county near Okaloosa.

In 1952, he enlisted in the U. S. Army and served during the Korean Conflict with Co. B of the 71st Signal Battalion in Japan until his discharge two years later.

On April 23, 1955, he was married to Barbara Innis in Lancaster, Mo., and to this union were born two daughters, Laura Lee, 11, and Kimberly Ann, 3, both of the family home.

Mr. McDowell was a member of the Eagles Lodge and Focht-Tennant Post No. 53 of the American Legion and attended the Northside Friends church. He had been employed the last few years with the Miracle Equipment Playground Co. in Grinnell.

Surviving are his widow, Barbara; two daughters; two brothers, Lyman McDowell and Wavern McDowell, both of Malcom; a sister, Mrs. Ernest (Ruth) Courtney of Lisbon. Also surviving are a half brother, Virgil McDowell of Fenton, Mich.; and a half sister, Mrs. Kenneth (Esther) Mager Wiles of Linden, Mich.

He was preceded in death by his mother in 1955 and his father in 1956.