

# Area Farmer Dies in Freak Grass Blaze

Grinnell Herald Register  
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Front page

Raymond W. Phipps, 46, of Rte. 1, Grinnell, was found dead Monday afternoon at the scene of a grass fire on a farm adjoining his own.

Poweshiek County Medical Examiner Dr. Kenneth Caldwell of Montezuma said Tuesday that an autopsy showed Phipps' death to be the result of the fire, not a heart attack or stroke as had been suspected earlier.

Deputy Sheriff Wayne Callison said Phipps had started the fire to burn some trash or grass, but that the fire spread out of control onto the Kenneth Adkins farm. Mrs. Phipps who had taken her husband to the field at about 1:30 p.m., returned with some coffee at 3:30, but found no sign of her husband. His tractor was still running, however.

Alarmed, Mrs. Phipps contacted Adkins, who discovered Phipps' charred body at about 3:40 p.m.

## Obituary

The son of Clifford and Minnie Gilbert Phipps, he was born Dec. 16, 1923 in Rock Creek Township, Jasper County. He attended the Grinnell Public Schools. Later he served in Korea with the 3346<sup>th</sup> Truck Co. from 1945 to 1947. On Oct. 29, 1948 he married Mary Schultz in Montezuma.

For 10 years he was employed by Talbott and Olds Feed Co., and later farmed until his death. He was a member of the Church of Christ.

Survivors include his wife; three children, Gary Ray, 19, Dianne Marie, 14, and Randall Lee, 9; a sister, Mrs. Roy (Pauline) Turner of Muncie, Indiana, and three brothers, Donald and Hollis of Grinnell, and Richard Phipps Shaw of Garwin, Iowa. He was preceded in death by his parents; one brother, Paul; and two sisters in infancy.

Funeral services were held at 3:30 p.m. Wednesday at the Smith Funeral Home with Nolan Anderson of Madrid, Iowa officiating. Music was provided by Mrs. Willard Heffner, organist, and Mrs. June Taylor, vocalist.

Pall bearers included Gerald Allen, Ray Bahrenfuse, Dick Crawford, Max Meldrem, Allan Moyer, and Dale See. Burial was in Hazelwood Cemetery.