

Accident claims Harlan business

Sept 10, 1982

ALTA, IA. — H. S. ('Spence') Vanderlinden was one of three persons killed in a two-car accident near here Friday night. Vanderlinden, 60, had officially retired nine days earlier after 31 years as general manager of Farm Service Co-op in Harlan.

Law enforcement authorities said a vehicle driven by Vanderlinden's wife, Janeth, collided with an auto driven by Marvin Winterhof, 59, of Aurelia, Ia. Winterhof and his wife, Myrna, 54, also were killed in the crash.

Mrs. Vanderlinden was listed in "serious, but stable" condition this week at Buena Vista County Hospital in Storm Lake.

JUNCTION OF COUNTY ROADS

Dale Sanders, communications operator for the Iowa Highway Patrol, said the Vanderlinden vehicle was northbound and the Winterhof car was eastbound when the two cars met at the intersection of county roads C-63 and M-27, about five miles southwest of Alta.

Sanders said law enforcement authorities' reports indicate the Vanderlinden vehicle failed to stop at a one-

way stop sign when the mishap occurred at 7:50 p.m. There were few skid marks detected on the blacktopped roads, he said.

The left front fender of the Vanderlinden car struck the right front of the Winterhof auto, according to investigating officer Mike Downs of the Iowa Highway Patrol office in Storm Lake.

Vanderlinden and Mrs. Winterhof were pronounced dead at the scene by the Buena Vista county medical examiner. Winterhof was dead on arrival at a Storm Lake hospital.

Downs said Vanderlinden was wearing a seat belt; he was unsure whether Mrs. Vanderlinden was. The Winterhofs apparently were not wearing seat belts, he said. Charges are pending.

The Vanderlindens were en route to spend the weekend with the Gene Sornsons of Harlan at the Sornsons' cottage on West Lake Okoboji. The Vanderlindens, expected to arrive around 8 p.m. Friday, had taken what is commonly known as the "backroad" to the Lakes — country paved roads with numerous stop signs for major east-west highways.

Iowa Highway Patrol authorities contacted the Sornsons about 10 p.m. and

inquired if they knew the Vanderlindens. The Sornsons then proceeded to notify family members.

PROMINENT BUSINESSMAN

Vanderlinden was a 1948 graduate of Iowa State University, where he received a bachelor's degree in industrial economics. In 1951 he joined Farm Service Co-op in Harlan, a petroleum cooperative with annual sales of \$500,000 at the time.

Vanderlinden directed a movement towards expansion of the co-op's services. Farm Service entered the dry fertilizer and anhydrous business. F. S. entered the feed and grain field in the 1960's and began to develop its own feed. Serving farmers in nine communities, annual sales grew to nearly \$30 million during his career.

Savings earned for farmers amounted to nearly \$6 million over the 30-plus years Vanderlinden was at the helm. At a retirement party late last month the venerable businessman said that probably ranked as his greatest achievement.

ON HMU BOARD 25 YEARS

Vanderlinden also was known for his long-time service on the Harlan Municipal Utilities board of trustees. Besides his 25

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years on the HMU board, Vanderlinden last year was appointed to American Public Power Association's (APPA's) newly-created Policy Boards Advisory Council.

He was a member of Abu-Bekr Temple Shriners of Sioux City, and sat on the board of the Omaha Bank of Cooperatives. A veteran of World War II, he was a member of Shelby County Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 941.

Earlier this year a scholarship originated in his name at Iowa State University.

SERVICES WERE TUESDAY

Funeral services were held Tuesday morning (Sept. 14) at Congregational Christian United Church of Christ in Harlan. Interment will be held at a later date. The body was cremated.

The family suggests memorials to the church.

Surviving besides his wife are two daughters, Susan (Mrs. David) Benson of Ames and Lisbeth (Mrs. Hugh) McLarty of Palo Alto, Calif.; one granddaughter, Christine Benson of Ames; and one brother, John, of Spirit Lake, Ia.



H.S. ('SPENCE')
VANDERLINDEN
...killed Friday