

● Friday, July 17, 1998 ●

Former Harlan resident drowns

SELMA -- The body of a former Harlan resident was found Sunday, July 12, the victim of a boating accident on the Des Moines River near here.

Michael C. Petersen, 21, Eldon, drowned near Selma Sunday. The bodies of Petersen and another man missing in the weekend boating accident were found about 11 miles downstream from where the boat had tipped over, officials said.

The accident occurred about 7 a.m. Saturday when the boat hit a log on the river near Selma. Two other men scrambled to shore, but Petersen and Corey Harsch, 33, Bloomfield, were missing.

Petersen was born in Harlan and graduated from Ottumwa High School in 1995. He attended Indian Hills Community College and was an employee of Al-Jon. He was involved in racing stock cars at Eldon and Bloomfield.

He is survived by his father and stepmother, Mike and Annette Petersen of Ottumwa; his mother and stepfather, Sharon and Marty Calkins of Salix; grandparents Jack and Loretta Petersen of Worthington, Mn., Norma Petersen of Worthington, and Clarence T. and Burdella Hansen of Salem, S.D.; two sisters, Jennifer Petersen of Iowa City and Heather Slater of Shenandoah; and a brother, Michael Calkins, of Ames.

Funeral mass was held Wednesday, July 15 at 1 p.m. at St. Mary of the Visitation Church with burial in the Ottumwa Cemetery.