

Standard Form For Members of the Legislature

Name of Representative _____ Senator Slife, Harry G.
Represented Black Hawk County, Iowa

1. Birthday and place 7 Feb 1923 Newarden, Iowa

2. Marriage (s) date place

Dorothea "Polly" Prichard 12 May 1945 Camp Pendleton,
Oceanside, California

3. Significant events for example:

A. Business President of the Rath Packing Company, Waterloo, Iowa 1967-
1975; president of Black Hawk Broadcasting Company 1975-1985;
board member of Sartori Memorial Hospital

B. Civic responsibilities Waterloo Civic Foundation; Rotary
Elks; cofounder of Waterloo Industrial Development Association

C. Profession Lawyer; College professor at Hartwig College 1986-1987

4. Church membership Methodist

5. Sessions served 74th, 75th General Assemblies 1991-1992, 1993-1994

6. Public Offices

A. Local _____

B. State Member of the Iowa Board of Regents; Board of directors of Iowa
Jepperson Association and the Iowa Manufacturers Association; Iowa
Economic Development Board

C. National _____

7. Death 2 Jan 1994 near Decorah, Iowa; buried

8. Children James; Peggy (Mrs. Gaard); Polly (Mrs. McDonald);
Barclay (Mrs. Schmedel)

9. Names of parents _____

10. Education Educated in the schools of Hawarden, Iowa
graduating in 1941

11. Degrees Attended University of Northern Iowa, Cedar Falls, Iowa
1941-1943; earned a law degree in 1948 from the
University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa

12. Other applicable information Republican

- He practiced law in Street City, Iowa 1948-1956
- He moved from Street City Iowa to the Waterloo area in 1956
as a lawyer for the Rath Packing Company until 1975
- In 1975 he left Rath Packing Company for the Black Hawk
Broadcasting Company where he was president for 10 years
- He was passionate in developing economic opportunity
for Waterloo, Iowa black citizens, founding the Martin
Luther King Center, the Black Community Enabler/
Developer Program in Waterloo and established a
scholarship for Waterloo black students to attend
Waterbury College, Waverly, Iowa where he was a member
of the Waterbury College Board of Regents.
- Military service - World War II - U. S. Marine Corps 1943-1946

Memorial fund: has been established.

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CEDAR FALLS — **Harry and Polly Slife**, both 70, of 2027 Minnetonka Drive, died Sunday, Jan. 2, in an automobile accident on Highway 9 near Decorah.

He was born Feb. 7, 1923, in Hawarden, son of Earl and Bernice Venard Slife. She was born April 18, 1923, in Storm Lake, daughter of Harry and Elsie Young Prichard. They were married May 12, 1945, in San Clemente, Calif.

Mr. Slife served with the U.S. Marines during World War II from 1943-46. He attended the University of Northern Iowa and graduated in 1948 from the University of Iowa School of Law. He moved to Forest City and was elected the Winnebago County attorney in 1954. He moved to Waterloo in 1956 and became the general counsel for Rath Packing Co., then served as vice president of finance before becoming president of Rath in 1967. He left Rath in 1975 to become president of Black Hawk Broadcasting Co., retiring from there in 1985.

He taught at Wartburg College in 1986 and 1987. He was and Iowa state senator from 1990 to 1993.

He had served on the Wartburg Board of Regents since 1980; served on the board of the African Palace (later became the Martin Luther King Jr. Education Center in Waterloo). He also was chairman of the Cedar Valley Economic Development Corp. and the Covenant Medical Center board of directors. He was president of the UNI Foundation, and served on the Iowa Board of Regents, the Governor's Committee for Iowa's Future Growth, the McElroy Foundation, Iowa Development Commission, the Iowa Manufacturers Association, Iowa Taxpayers Association, Waterloo Civic Foundation, Grout Museum Trust, Cedar Falls Arts and Culture Board, Hawkeye Institute of Technology Foundation Board and the Hoover Library Board. He was a director of the National Bank of Waterloo.

He was co-founder of Waterloo Industrial Development Association.

Mrs. Slife received her teaching certificate from Iowa State Teachers College, and had taught first grade in Doon and Hawarden, and second grade in West Branch and Greene. She was serving on the board of the Conestoga Council of Girl Scouts and the UNI Alumni Board. She had been on the Sartori Memorial Hospital Auxiliary Board and Cedar Falls Health Care Review Board, was past president of the Cedar Heights PTA, the United Methodist Womens Guild and PEO Chapter LK, and had been vice chairwoman of the Western Home Auxiliary. She was also chaplain of the Ladies' Legislative League.

Survived by: a son, James of Barrington, Ill.; three daughters, Peggy Gaard of Edina, Minn., Polly McDonald of Rock Rapids and Sarah Salzwedel of Mukwonago, Wis.; and 14 grandchildren. Mr. Slife is survived by a brother, Earl V. Jr. of Hawarden; and his stepmother, Edith C. Slife of Hawarden; Mrs. Slife is survived by three sisters, Patty Stull of Storm Lake, her twin, Peggy Darland of Cresco, and Anita Martin of Waukon.

Mrs. Slife was preceded in death by a brother, Robert Prichard; and a sister, Janet Titsworth.

Memorial services: 2 p.m. Friday at Nazareth Lutheran Church, under the direction of St. Timothy's United Methodist Church. Private family burial will precede services. Friends may call from 6 to 9 p.m. Thursday at Dahl-Van Hove-Schoof Funeral Home, and from 10 a.m. until noon Friday at the church. The caskets will be closed.

Memorials: directed to St. Timothy's United Methodist Church, Conestoga Council of Girl Scouts, Wartburg College in Waverly, the UNI Foundation, or the Slife Family Memorial Fund.



**Harry
Slife**



**Polly
Slife**

WATERLOO CEDAR FALLS Courier



Bobby Bowden relishes national football championship.

Sports / B1

Monday, January 3, 1994

Waterloo-Cedar Falls, Iowa

Harry, Polly Slife die in auto accident

By ERIC WOOLSON
Courier Assistant City Editor

Their deaths, friends of Harry and Polly Slife say, was much like their lives. It was something that happened to them together.

The Slifes, both 70, of Cedar Falls, were pronounced dead Sunday at the scene of an accident four miles east of Decorah on Highway 9 Sunday afternoon.

Polly Slife lost control of their car, which was struck broadside by a Jeep Wagoneer driven by Bonnie Jean Sorum, 47, of Decorah, according to a spokesman for the Winneshiok County Sheriff's Department.



Harry Slife



Polly Slife

ment.

Sorum suffered multiple injuries. She was listed in serious condition this morning at Lutheran Hospital in La Crosse, Wis., but her injuries were not believed to be life-threatening.

ing.

"It's a terrible loss for this community," said state Sen. Don Redfern, a close friend of the couple who succeeded Harry Slife in an August special election. "People of that stature, you don't replace. Harry and Polly were the leaders in this area."

In 1988, they were recognized as "Outstanding Philanthropists" by the Eastern Iowa Chapter of the National Society of Fund-raising Executives.

Some of their gifts reflected their long, close association with Wartburg College in Waverly, including a

1988 pledge of \$200,000 to pay for the college's first distinguished professorship and a \$50,000 endowment in 1987 to establish a scholarship fund for minority students in the Waterloo/Cedar Falls area.

Harry Slife had served on the Wartburg Board of Regents since 1980 and taught as an executive-in-residence after his retirement. The Slifes' three daughters — Polly, Peggy and Sarah — graduated from Wartburg.

The Slifes also were active supporters of the University of Northern Iowa, where both were students in the 1940s. A son, James, was a UNI

graduate.

Harry Slife was chairman of the university foundation when the fund-raising drive for the UNI Dome began. He also served on the State Board of Regents, and was a vocal advocate for UNI during his 2 1/2 years in the Iowa Senate.

"Few alumni have been more closely identified with the University of Northern Iowa than have Polly and Harry. They embodied the highest ideals of public service," President Constantine Curris said. "Their contributions to the university, our

See SLIFE / page 47

Some areas receive up to six inches of snow

By AMY DAVIS
and HEATHER CLARK
Courier Staff Writers

Mother Nature's New Year's resolution to drop a few pounds.



Legislators face changing budget climate

By HEATHER CLARK
Courier Staff Writer

For the first time in the last 10

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Group seeks War II rehabilia

BY BLUME
Writer

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reen, exhibit curator, is
people willing to share
personal memories and
s dating back to 1941

...to make this a very
hibit of real people who
d in this," Green said.

l home-front life is often
when people think about
l.
... Source: Iowa Territorial and State Historical Society, compiled by volunteers and staff at the State Historical Society of Iowa Library, Des Moines, Iowa.

SLIFE

Couple remembered for community support

Continued from page A1

community and state are immense and lasting. Their legacy will inspire us all for years to come."

State Sen. Jim Lind, a Waterloo Republican, referred to the couple as "a dynamic duo whose daily lives were devoted to serving people."

"Our community was the recipient of that day in and day out, and their impact is sorely going to be missed," Lind said.

The couple was "inseparable," and Polly Slife's role in her husband's career cannot be overemphasized.

"She was often there in the Senate when the tough issues came up," Lind said. "She might not have been at his side every hour of every day, but that's only because she, too, was out there helping people. She was always on the front lines."

Rosemary Beach, the former director of the Cedar Falls Historical Society who had known the couple for years, said friends never thought of one without the other.

"They came as a matched set," Beach said.

Gov. Terry Branstad described Harry Slife as a community leader, and said the state has lost "one of its finest and most-respected citizens."

"He did a lot for a lot of people," Branstad said. "There is no end to the good things you could say about Harry and Polly Slife. (Their) death is a tragic loss to their many friends and to the state of Iowa."

LeRoy Redfern, a prominent Cedar Falls attorney, knew the Slifes since the 1950s, when Harry joined the legal team of the now-defunct Rath Packing Co.

"Everyone will suffer from their absence," he said. "Harry was so vital to every important project in this community over the past 40 years."

The elder Redfern said Slife deftly bridged the political and cultural gaps between Waterloo and Cedar Falls, always doing thing in terms of metro-wide goals.

"Neither city ever tried claiming him for their own," he said. "He was there for everybody."

Dr. Ross Christensen said Harry Slife was a role model as to what an individual involved in community leadership does and really the reasons they do it — strictly from the heart.

"He never did anything for the recognition," Christensen said.

... Source: Iowa Territorial and State Historical Society, compiled by volunteers and staff at the State Historical Society of Iowa Library, Des Moines, Iowa.

voice, also had a unique knack for getting right to the point in a disarming way.

For those reasons, it seemed everyone listened when he spoke.

When Democrats charged in 1990 that he shouldn't be elected because he wouldn't be representative of the "hard-working middle-class people" of the district, Slife replied, "If their assertion is that I sit over there with my feet in the country club pool and don't really know how people live, I don't believe that. I'm not a silver spoon guy. I was a product of the Depression."

In April 1992, he rose on the Senate floor to oppose legislation aimed at companies such as meatpacking giant IBP inc. that hired Hispanic workers from the Southwest. He argued that the measure would prompt companies to quit hiring minority workers, who often use the industry jobs as a start to better lives and a well-deserved piece of the American Dream.

"There are plenty of rednecks in and around Waterloo that are still unhappy Rath attracted so many black people from Holmes County, Miss.," he said. "I am not one of them."

Slife walked away from the Senate in July 1992, just nine months after he ran unopposed for a full, four-year term. Weary of the partisan bickering and the slow pace of the legislative process, he threw himself back into local projects with zeal.

A partial list would show that he helped start and served on the board of the African Palace, which later became the Martin Luther King Jr. Education Center in Waterloo; served as chairman of the Cedar Valley Economic Development Commission, Covenant Medical Center Board of Directors and Wartburg College Board of Regents; helped establish Metropolitan Improvement Services, which provides summer jobs for youths.

He also assisted in fund-raising for the YMCA, YWCA, Boys-Girls Club of Waterloo and Girl Scouts; was president of the University of Northern Iowa Foundation when the UNI-Dome fund-raising drive began; served on the State Board of Regents, Governor's Committee for Iowa's Future Growth, McElroy Foundation, Waterloo Chamber of Commerce, Iowa Development Commission, Waterloo Industrial Development Association, Iowa Manufacturers Association, Iowa Taxpayers Association, Waterloo Civic Foundation, Sartori Memorial Hospital, Grout Museum Trust, Cedar Falls Arts and Culture Board and Hawkeye Institute of Technology Foundation Board; and was director of the National Bank of Waterloo.

He was a co-founder of the Waterloo Industrial Development Association. He also was named one of the six most prominent local leaders of the 1980s by metro area residents who responded to

rounding up investors, entertaining business prospects and making contact with state economic developers.

"You can point to IBP as one of his accomplishments and I think Eagle Tanning was another. He gave a lot of time — not only money but time — to economic development.

"He did a lot of things that most people don't see," Wade said.

Slife used extraordinary management talent to bring people together, said W. Louis Beecher, a Waterloo attorney and community leader who helped hire Slife for the Rath Packing Company presidency.

"He had the ability to get people to work together, and, of course, he turned that to the community," Beecher said.

The deaths hit especially hard because Harry Slife had begun to turn all his attention to community work, Beecher said.

In the weeks before his death, Slife had been working to persuade Lull Industries — a successor to Construction Machinery Corp. — to relocate in Waterloo, and on other business prospects, Beecher said.

"He was just at the point where he was free of other jobs and wanted to work in the community," Beecher said.

Jimmie Porter, director of the Black Community Enabler Program, said Harry Slife's commitment to the black community went beyond financial contributions.

"You could always go to him," Porter said Monday. "He was not the most vocal person, but he was a great listener. He has such an understanding of social problems."

Porter said his relationship with Slife dates back 25 years when, as president of Rath Packing Co., Slife gave Porter a leave of absence from the plant to work on resolving racial problems plaguing Waterloo.

"He will be missed in so many ways," Porter said. "Will there be another person to take his place? I think not. Thank God he was here. His life made a difference."

Porter met with Slife six weeks ago to discuss construction of a new building for radio station KBBG. Slife agreed to head up the finance committee for the group.

"We're still going to build it and there will be a plaque in the building dedicated to Harry Slife," he said.

Lifestyles Editor Carolyn Cole, Assistant City Editor Patt Johnson and Staff Writers Larry Ballard, Debora Blume, Jennifer Jacobs, Ann Langel and Bill Slakey contributed to this story.

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food.

...ere rationed at three pairs a
sneakers were not available
a rubber shortage.

...Green, exhibit curator, is
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s, personal memories and
phs dating back to 1941
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...ould like to make this a very
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lved in this," Green said.

...aid home-front life is often
d when people think about
r II.

...people at home were very
in what they did, and those
recollections can make an
n," she said.

...istorical Society has a limit-
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-mittee is asking the pub-
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They are looking for pho-
-advertising and patriotic
cific to Cedar Falls during

...ing to Kevin Born, commit-
-ary, the group is organized
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groups and is developing
al programs, commemora-
-ities and events to honor
r II veterans, their families
who served on the home
-ivities are slated through
r 1995.

Damages garage Charles City

...LES CITY — An oil pan
xt to a wood-burning stove
gnited a fire that damaged
ear Charles City Saturday.

...s City firefighters were
ou 36 p.m. Saturday to
an Osdall home two miles
of Charles City.

...filled plastic pan sitting next
e in the garage caught fire
read to the structure. The
ed \$5,000 in damage.

...most respected citizens."
"He did a lot for a lot of people,"
Branstad said. "There is no end to the
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...A Hawarden native, Harry Slife
attended the University of Northern
Iowa as a physical education major
until he joined the U.S. Marines in
World War II in 1943. He served until
1946.

...He went to the University of Iowa
School of Law, moved to Forest City
and was elected Winnebago County
Attorney in 1954.

...He moved to Waterloo in 1956 —
before the end of his first term —
to become general counsel for Rath Pack-
ing Co. He served as vice president of
finance before becoming president in
1967. He left Rath in 1975 to become
president of Black Hawk Broadcasting
Co.

...He retired in 1985, but maintained a
full schedule of economic development
and other civic activities.

... "I'll stop being busy when people
get tired of me," he said in June 1988
when he was named grand marshal of
the Sturgis Falls Parade in Cedar Falls.

... People never got tired of him.

...When then-state Sen. Joy Coming
was elected lieutenant governor in
November 1990, friends persuaded
Slife to run for the seat. He was such a
popular local figure that the chairman
of the Black Hawk County Democrats
hinted that his party would be wise to
"save resources and battle where you
have a chance."

...Slife eventually had an opponent, but
got 58.8 percent of the vote.

...In the General Assembly — and dur-
ing his brief political career — he was a
rare breed who had the self-confidence
and security to only speak when he felt
he had something really important to
say.

...Slife, gifted with a deep, booming

...the Martin Luther King Jr. Education
Center in Waterloo; served as chairman
of the Cedar Valley Economic Devel-
opment Commission, Covenant Medi-
cal Center Board of Directors and
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He also was named one of the six most
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metro area residents who responded to
an informal Courier survey in January
1990.

...Harry Slife's awards included Iowa
Management man of the Year, 1972;
Boss of the Year, 1975; Waterloo
Jaycees; Citizen of the Year, Waterloo
Chamber of Commerce, 1979; Distin-
guished Iowa Citizen Award, 1987, Ser-
vice to Mankind Award, Cedar Falls
Sertoma Club, 1987 Winnebago Coun-
cil of the Boy Scouts of America; Dis-
tinguished Service to Cedar Falls,
1989.

...Polly Slife had been active with the
Cedar Falls Symphony Guild, hospital
auxiliaries and the Girl Scouts.

...The Slifes also were active members
of St. Timothy's United Methodist
Church in Cedar Falls.

...Marge Brom, a Girl Scout co-leader
of Polly Slife, recalled her dear friend
as a happy, giving person.

... "She supported her husband and
children in all their endeavors, and
what a wonderful grandmother. She
contributed to so many lives — from
nursing home residents to the very
young," Brom said. "My memories of
her are joyful, and I miss her. My life is
richer for having been her friend."

...The Slifes' neighbor and friend,
Junean Witham, said her husband,
Dick, "viewed Harry as a father."
Witham, a prominent businessman,
was out of town and had not been con-
tacted about the accident this morning.

...Cedar Valley Partnership President
Don Wade said Slife pushed Waterloo's
economic development in every way
he could, offering preliminary advice

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dates back 25 years when, as president
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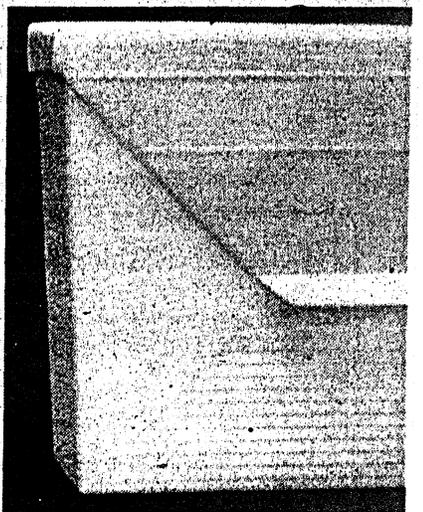
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to discuss construction of a new build-
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tee for the group.

... "We're still going to build it and
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...*Lifestyles Editor Carolyn Cole,
Assistant City Editor Patt Johnson
and Staff Writers Larry Ballard, Deb-
ora Blume, Jennifer Jacobs, Ann Lan-
gel and Bill Slakey contributed to this
story.*

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Winneshiek County is...
...and hundreds of...
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...Natural Stabilization...
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George Sigler rules that...
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...which has a Decorah...
...its 50th anniversary...
...Attorney Andrew Jor...
...about 13 months on

Winneshiek County is pounded...
...dropped between three...
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Upper Iowa River crests...
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...mes have water in their...
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...river crest was the high...
...ime high of 15.20 feet

ed on next page.

The birds, which were a 100-mile radius with...
...Decorah being the southern part of that radius, within 10...
...hail eagles and two golden eagles, according to Decorah...
...Carter of Decorah, a member National West Service...
...pilot. Carter is vice president and field trip chairman of...
...the Upper Iowa Audubon Society.

"That's the highest ever for the Decorah count," he said...
...of the 10 bald eagles killed by the 14 eagles who...
...record birds seen in a 24-hour period.

In addition to the 10 bald and two golden eagles, count...
...men observed 100 red-tailed hawks, Carter said, adding that...
...amount was "by far the most ever counted."

The Decorah area count has been conducted every winter...
...since at least 1963.

Another unusual find during the late December count...
...was a ring-necked duck found at North Star Creek near...
...Highlandville.

"That was the first one of those ever seen on the Dec...
...orah count," Carter said, adding, "It's just sort of a fluke."

Carter said it is not uncommon to see a ring-necked...
...duck on large reservoirs or along the Mississippi River in...
...southern Iowa.

He added there were no other sightings of unusual...
...species, but said more than 200 black-capped chickadees

Eagle Migration

The number of bald eagles...
...crossing the fly has few years...
...once over birds can even be...
...they fly along or near the fly...
...They're entering their first...
...out of the nest. "They're on...
...ly."

Carter said the increase in...
...tributed to a loss of habitat in...
...and because they have changed...
...on dead pigs and other farm...
...mostly on fish along the Missis...

Bird counts

The tradition of bird counting...
...originated at the beginning of t...
...instead of shooting birds, such...
...birds they would simply count.

The number of annual counts...
...South America has increased to...
...adding that most of those occur

The count compiler for the U...
...is former Decorah resident Dar...
...northwest Iowa.

Former Iowa senator, wife die in Winneshiek County accident

High part

A former Iowa senator and his wife...
...were killed and a Decorah woman is in...
...fair condition after a Sunday accident...
...four miles east of Decorah.

According to the Iowa State Patrol...
...Dorothea Y. Slife (Polly), 70, of Cedar...
...Falls, was eastbound on Highway 9 when...
...she lost control of her vehicle at about...
...2:40 p.m., sliding broadside across the...
...center line into the path of a Jeep...
...Wagoner driven by Bonnie J. Sorum...
...47, of Decorah.

Light snow was falling and roads were...
...100 percent snow and slush covered at...
...the time of the accident, according to...
...state troopers. After the Slife vehicle was...
...struck, it went into the ditch, while the...
...Sorum vehicle came to rest on the road...
...an accident report stated.

Accident

Continued on next page

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Continued from front page

A 15-unit, assisted-living retirement center is planned by Aase Haugen Homes.

Sept. 16 A search by Decorah police yields cocaine and an assault rifle in an apartment on east Pearl Street.

The Nordic Fest board looks into a possible endowment which may help guarantee continuance of the event.

Sept. 21 Enrollment at Luther College is at an all-time high with 2,354 students.

Queen candidates for the Decorah High School Homecoming for 1993 are Erika Amundson, Kelly Burg, Betsy Newhouse, Laura Scholl and Mary Weis.

Sept. 23 Decorah City Council members come within one vote of reconsidering the deal with Fareway to build a new store in Block 16.

A request to change the city of Decorah's snowmobile ordinance was made to allow operation of snowmobiles within the city limits.

Sept. 28 Kelly Burg, daughter of Phil and Barb Burg, is crowned as 1993 Decorah High School Homecoming queen.

DHS seniors Heather Halverson, Rachel Macdonald, Jennifer Matter and Brian Rodecap are designated as commended students by the National Scholarship Corp.

A public meeting which may determine whether the Nor-Ski Runs downhill ski facility remains open is scheduled in Decorah.

Sept. 30 Winneshiek County officials earn the county does not have to match funds provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for flooding.

Little Miss Pigtail candidates are Katie Ielgerson, Samantha Schissel, Betsy Joenig, Britney Bakken and Christa Mans. Dawn Tieskoetter is the only candidate for 1993 Winneshiek County pork queen.

CHILDREN IN POVERTY

County	Female Headed	All Families
Winneshiek	79.1%	12.1%
Allamakee	68.4%	12.1%
Chickasaw	49.2%	9.2%
Clayton	84.4%	20%
Fayette	58.9%	18.3%
Howard	65.6%	15.4%

Information from the 1990 census compiled by the Child and Family Policy Center of Des Moines shows that 79.1 percent of children under age 4 live in poverty in Winneshiek County female-headed households. The percentage of children living in poverty in all families in the county is 12.1 percent.

Accident

Continued from front page

Slife and her husband, Harry G. Slife, 70, who were extricated by the Jaws of Life, were pronounced dead at the scene. Sorum was taken by Winneshiek County Ambulance to Winneshiek County Memorial Hospital and later transferred to La Crosse Lutheran Hospital in La Crosse, Wis.

The Slifes and Sorum were all wearing seatbelts, the accident report said. Both the Slifes' 1992 Oldsmobile and Sorum's Jeep were totaled.

The Iowa State Patrol was assisted by the Winneshiek County Sheriff's Department, the Decorah Police Department, the Decorah Fire Department and the Frankville Fire Department.

Retired in August

After serving for three years, Harry

Slife, a Republican, retired from the Senate last August. He was a former member of the State Board of Regents and served on the Department of Economic Development Board.

He served in the U.S. Marine Corps from 1943 to 1946.

A past president of the Rath Packing Co. and Black Hawk Broadcasting, Slife retired in 1985.

In an article in the Cedar Rapids Gazette, Gov. Terry Branstad referred to Slife as one of Iowa's "finest and most-respected citizens."

He added: "Harry and Polly Slife's death is a tragic loss to their many friends and to the state of Iowa."

Heating

Continued from front page

Ample Inventories

Dave Holck, customer service manager at Peoples Natural Gas in Decorah, said his firm has ample product to keep customers warm this winter.

"Our inventories are on the full side," Holck said.

to get enough trucks in fast enough."

Northeast Farm Service serves "several hundred" home heat customers.

Although Interstate Power Co. in Decorah imposed a 6.3 percent rate increase

Continued from front page

undergoes review and no further studies are necessary.

A study report for the DOT's five-year report says projects are "based on existing federal and state programs, a estimate of funds expected to be

Legislature's action compiled by volunteers and staff at the State Historical Society of Iowa Library, Des Moines, Iowa.

The Des Moines Register

DES MOINES, IOWA ■ MONDAY, JANUARY 3, 1994 ■ PRICE 35 CENTS

Ex-lawmaker Slife killed on

In a crash in Jasper County, an 11-year-old Boone girl perishes in a burning car.

By **VIVIEN LOU CHEN**
and **TOM ALEX**
REGISTER STAFF WRITERS

Snow blanketed much of Iowa Sunday, causing the death of retired state Sen. Harry G. Slife, R-Cedar Falls, and at least two other fatalities on slick roadways.

Slife and his wife, Dorothea "Pol-

ly," both 70, were pronounced dead at the scene of the accident, about four miles east of Decorah on Iowa Highway 9, according to the Iowa State Patrol.

Throughout the day, state troopers rushed to keep up with countless calls for help from motorists as snowfall in central and northwest Iowa totaled between 4 and 6 inches.

The weather sent so many returning holiday travelers into a tailspin that troopers did not have enough time to tally the total number of traffic accidents.

"It's a real mess," said Sgt. Frank Fisher of the state patrol's office in

Des Moines. "We've got cars going off everywhere with no rhyme or reason. . . . Cars are slipping and sliding every which way."

The two deaths in Winneshiek County and one in Jasper County were blamed on slick road conditions.

Lost Control

About 2:40 p.m., the Slifes were traveling eastbound on Highway 9 when Polly Slife lost control of their Oldsmobile sedan and slid across the center line into the path of a Jeep, state patrol officials said.

The Jeep struck the Slifes' car

broadside, forcing the sedan into a ditch.

The Jeep's driver, Bonnie Jean Sorum, 47, of Decorah, was transferred to a hospital in La Crosse, Wis., with multiple injuries.

Investigators say the Slifes and Sorum all were wearing seat belts.

Harry Slife had been elected to the state Senate in 1990, but resigned last year in disenchantment. He was a former member of the Iowa Board of Regents and the former president

WEATHER Please turn to Page 2A

MID-FEBRUARY DEADLINE

School-aid debate may set tone for

'They don't flush your heads in the toilet. If they'll do it, but that's when you talk to the

— John Baker, a sixth-grader at Mer-

Middle school initiative

Source: Iowa Territorial and State Legislators Collection at the State Historical Society of Iowa Library, Des Moines, Iowa

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strives for accuracy and fair-
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DER'S GUIDE

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Snow, ice causes

WEATHER

Continued from Page 1A

of Rath Packing Co. and Black Hawk Broadcasting Co.

Girl Trapped in Car

About an hour earlier Sunday, on Interstate Highway 80 east of Newton, passers-by frantically tried to rescue Melissa Cole, 11, of Boone who died inside a burning car, Jasper County sheriff's officials said.

The good Samaritans managed to drag the driver, her father, David Cole, 34, also of Boone, out of the 1979 Buick Century to safety, authorities said, but they could not reach Melissa.

David Cole was taken to a Newton hospital, where he was later listed in serious but stable condition.

The car carrying the Coles was going westbound near the Killduff exit

Snow, ice send D.M. drivers off roadways

ACCIDENTS

Continued from Page 1A

of Moline, were admitted to the same hospital, and both were listed in fair condition Sunday evening.

The Iowa State Patrol said Charles Bohman was driving a van westbound behind a semitrailer truck driven by Steve Thompson of Fort Madison. Thompson put on his

when it slid into the median and emerged in the eastbound lanes, authorities said.

It then collided with a Mercedes Benz driven by Jane Victor, 45, of St. Louis and continued in the wrong direction, hitting a semitrailer truck driven by Adam Halsey, 30, of Guthrie Center.

The Buick burst into flames after impact with the truck and came to rest in the middle of the highway, when it was struck moments later by another car, driven by Ronald Hansen, 28, of Fort Campbell, Ky.

None of the passengers or drivers in the other three vehicles was seriously injured.

A fourth traffic fatality was reported on Iowa Highway 34, three miles east of Agency in Wapello County, but it was not clear whether the accident was weather-related.

Also Sunday, Tom Peterson, 45, a

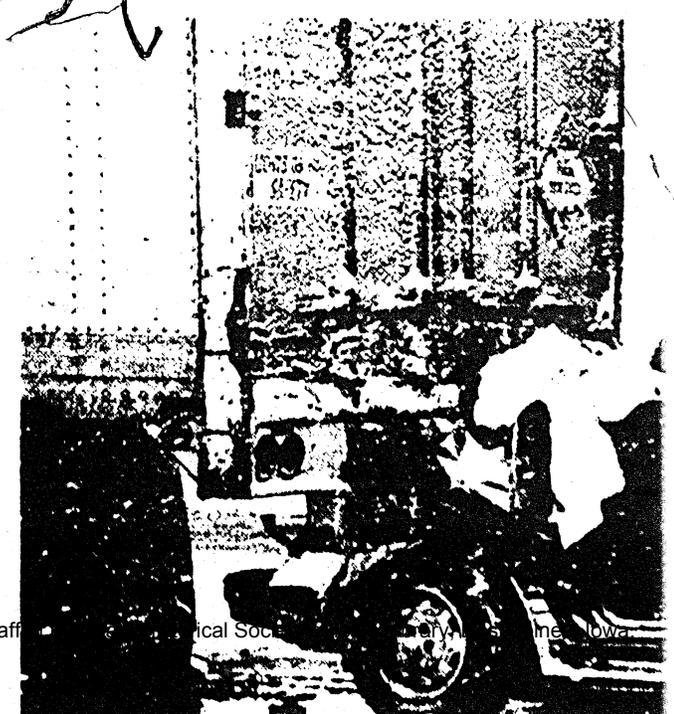
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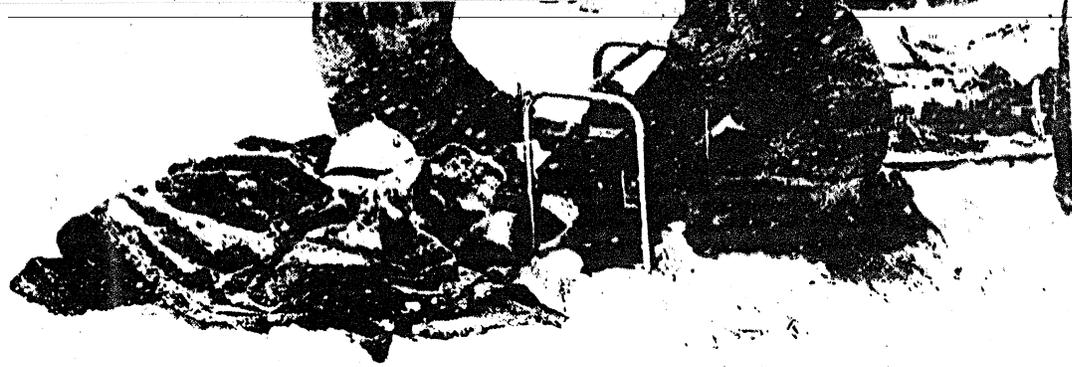
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TOM ALEX/THE REGISTER

Rescue workers tend equipment after freeing riders from their van Sunday on I-80 east of Des Moines.

Branstad calls Slife's death a tragic loss

By TOM ALEX
REGISTER STAFF WRITER

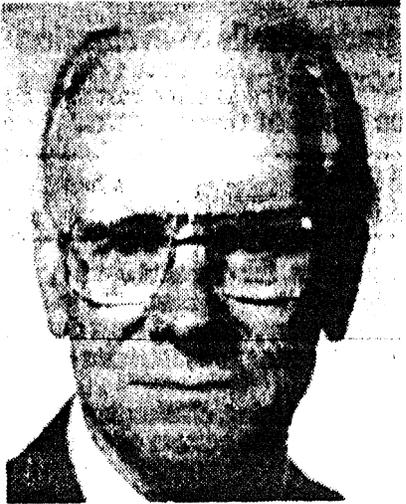
Former State Sen. Harry Slife, who was killed in a traffic accident near Decorah Sunday, was one of Iowa's "finest and most respected citizens," said Gov. Terry Branstad.

Slife resigned his legislative post last year, citing frustration and disenchantment with partisan politics. He had three years remaining in his term from District 12, which includes Cedar Falls, Hudson and part of Waterloo.

Slife and his wife, Dorothea "Polly," both 70, were killed Sunday when Polly Slife lost control of the car she was driving and the vehicle slid across the center line into the path of a Jeep, state patrol officials said. One person in the other vehicle was injured.

A Republican from Cedar Falls, Slife was president of Rath Packing Co. at Waterloo from 1967 to 1975 and president of Black Hawk Broadcasting Co. for 10 years after that. He was a former member of the Iowa Board of Regents.

Branstad issued a statement Sunday night saying, "The state of Iowa lost one of its finest and most re-



Harry Slife
Community leader

spected citizens. Harry Slife was a community leader and a community supporter. He did a lot for a lot of people. There's no end to the good things you can say about Harry and Polly Slife. Harry and Polly Slife's deaths are a tragic loss to their many friends and to the state."

Slife was born at Hawarden and graduated from Hawarden High School in 1941. He attended the University of Northern Iowa from 1941

to 1943 and earned a law degree from the University of Iowa in 1948.

He was married to Polly Prichard on May 12, 1945, at Camp Pendleton, Oceanside, Calif., and practiced law in Forest City from 1948 to 1956.

Slife was elected to the Senate in December 1990 to fill the unexpired term of Joy Corning, who was elected lieutenant governor that November.

In a statement about his resignation last year, Slife said he was at a stage in his life where he was "... not cut out for this kind of work."

"My serious disenchantment with the process has not only become personally aggravating, it also has clearly caused me to be a less effective senator than my constituents deserve."

In addition to his work at Rath, Black Hawk Broadcasting, the Iowa Senate and the Iowa Board of Regents, he was a member of the board of directors of Sartori Memorial Hospital, the Waterloo Civic Foundation, the National Bank of Waterloo, the Iowa Manufacturers Association, the Iowa Taxpayers Association and several other groups and organizations.

PEOPLE

In the News

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Short Takes

■ This time, the government won't have to disavow any knowledge of Peter Graves' actions. The Mission: Impossible star, chairman of the VA's National Hospital-ized Veterans will visit ailing wife



Pacific to Potomae

Jane Alexander, new chairwoman of the National Endowment for the Arts, must be a glutton for punishment. Not content to simply travel to Washington for regular abuse at the hands of self-aggrandizing congresspeople, the award-winning actress has sold her beachfront Santa Monica, Calif., condominium and will move to the nation's capital. The actress and her husband, TV producer Ed Sherin, sold the 1,500-square-foot, five-bedroom penthouse condo for close to the asking price of \$449,000. Call us crazy, but we would have stayed in Calif.

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Carney.

Mayor John "Pat" Dorrian and Councilman Archie Brooks voted against Carney's reappointment.

Carney, however, received support from the five other council members and will continue to serve in his position.

Brooks and Dorrian made no public comments about their reasons for voting against Carney.

Dorrian declined later to say why he would not support Carney's reappointment.

"I've got my reasons," Dorrian said.



Carney
Manager



Dorrian
Mayor



Brooks
On council

Brooks left the council meeting early and could not be reached for comment.

City Clerk Donna Boetel-Baker said that she could not recall any other times when a council member had voted against reappointing Carney.

er instances when council members had voted against his annual reappointment, which comes up automatically at the first council meeting of the year.

Carney became the city manager of Des Moines in May 1985. He is the sixth person to fill the manager post in 35 years. He came to Des Moines in 1982, when he was hired as an assistant city manager.

In other business, Christine Hensley was sworn in for her first term on the council. Council members George Flagg and Tom Vlassis were sworn in for new terms.

'A LOT OF INTEGRITY'

Slifes recalled as committed Iowans

By **THOMAS A. FOGARTY**

REGISTER STAFF WRITER

Former state Sen. Harry Slife of Cedar Falls and his wife, Dorothea "Polly" Slife, who died in a weekend car wreck, were remembered Monday as committed Iowans who made their state and community better places to live.

"It's really a tragic loss to the community," said Betty Jean Furgerson, a member of the Iowa Board of Regents from Waterloo. "They were both fine, kind people, each with a lot of integrity."

The Slifes were traveling east on Iowa Highway 9 just east of Decorah about 2:40 p.m. Sunday afternoon when Polly Slife lost control of the car on the snow-slick-

ened road, authorities said. The Slifes' Oldsmobile sedan slid across the center line of the highway, colliding with a Jeep driven by Bonnie Jean Sorum, 47, of Decorah.

The Slifes, both 70, were declared dead at the scene. Sorum was reported in serious condition Monday at LaCrosse Lutheran Hospital in LaCrosse, Wis.

After three sessions in the Iowa

Senate, Harry Slife, a Republican, resigned last July, saying he was frustrated by the Legislature's slow pace and paralyzing partisanship. Slife was first elected in a special election in 1990, and re-elected in 1992.

Rather than stick taxpayers with the cost of the special election to

SLIFE Please turn to Page 4M

MAJOR COLD SNAP COMING

Snowstorm leaves seven dead; another on it



By **MARK SIEBERT**

REGISTER STAFF WRITER

Another major winter storm appears headed for Iowa, weather forecasters say, bringing heavy

"At this time, it's impossible to predict where that heavy snow will be," Feldt said. "But right now it looks like it will be close to — or in Iowa."

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Iowa Territory and State Legislators Collection compiled by volunteers and staff at the State Historical Society of Iowa Library

to stay in his hometown. Person graduated from Central School and Morningside College joining the Army. He worked for the Pacific Stars and Stripes paper and, Cole said, was the Stars and Stripes journalist to Vietnam when U.S. troops were there in 1973.

Main America

returned to Sioux City after the he started his career as radio hockey Captain America on before landing in television. Person also was active in numerous community organizations, especially the Sioux City Community Center. He started with the theater group and eventually became a member of its board of directors and general manager. In recent years he spearheaded a \$500,000 program to remodel the theater's interior.

Person is survived by two sisters.

Music concerts

THE STATE'S IOWA NEWS SERVICE reports, Ia. — The Emile Beaux Trio, artists in residence at Upper Iowa University, will perform on Jan. 11 and 21 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Garbee Hall's East Cafeteria. The events are open to the public and will be served.

Slifes recalled as Iowans who made the state better

SLIFE

Continued from Page 1M

to find his successor, Slife wrote the county a check for \$14,664.58 to cover the full cost, said Grant Veeder, Black Hawk County auditor. Slife's relatively brief encounter with elective politics capped a long career.

Slife moved from Forest City to the Waterloo area in 1956 to work as a lawyer for the old Rath Packing Co. He eventually became president of the firm. In 1975, Slife left Rath for Black Hawk Broadcasting Co., where he was president for 10 years.

In 1973, former Gov. Robert Ray appointed Slife to a six-year term on the Board of Regents. In 1985, Gov. Terry Branstad appointed Slife to the Iowa Economic Development Board. Branstad called the Slifes'



Slife
Crash victim

deaths "a tragic loss to their many friends and to the state of Iowa."

Wartburg Regent

A Hawarden native, Harry Slife graduated from the University of Northern Iowa and the University of Iowa College of Law. He was active in the UNI Foundation and as a member of the board of regents at Wartburg College in Waverly, where three daughters attended.

Slife's wealth became an issue in his 1990 election when his opponent accused him of being out of touch with ordinary people. Slife shrugged.

"I started poor and I'm not poor anymore," he said in an interview during the campaign. "I don't apologize for it. I don't brag about it either."

Economic development — including economic opportunity for Waterloo-area blacks — was a passion for Slife, his friends say. He was instrumental in the founding of the Martin Luther King Center and the Black Community Enabler/Developer Program in Waterloo. He also established a scholarship for black students from Waterloo to attend Wartburg.

Not Paternalistic

"He was one of the few people in the white community who understood that African-Americans need the power and the wherewithal to help themselves," said Furgerson, who is black. "He saw his role as a partner who could help people do things for themselves. He was not a paternalistic person at all."

Slife resigned from the economic development board to take his Senate seat, but returned shortly thereafter as a non-voting legislative member of the panel.

"He was a tremendous board member," said Allan Thoms, state economic development director. "He had a great sense of humor and good feel for the issues. He was never quick to anger. He was a great guy. I'll miss him a lot."

Polly Slife was a homemaker who was deeply involved in community affairs, friends say. "She was a perfect partner for him," said Furgerson. "She was a very intelligent woman."

Funeral arrangements are being handled by the State Historical Society Funeral Home in Cedar Falls.

member of Waukee United Methodist Church.

Among survivors are three sons: Harold, Raymond and Harvey, all of Waukee; two daughters, Marger Stamp of Lewis and Shirley Mitchell of Littleton, Colo.; a brother, Emory Aikin of Loveland, Colo.; 18 grandchildren; 41 great-grandchildren and four great-great-grandchildren.

Friends may call after 3 p.m. today at Fisher Funeral Home where the family will meet friends from 7 to 8 p.m.

OBITUARY POLICIES

OBITUARIES of current and former residents of central Iowa are published free of charge by *The Register*, but the obituaries must include certain information, including a specific cause of death and home address. Condensed obituaries are used if the person moved from central Iowa more than 20 years ago. People who want specific wording for an obituary or who prefer not to provide information required by *The Register* may purchase space in the "Death Notice advertisement that appears on the page. To arrange for publication of an obituary, call the Metro/Iowa Desk at (515) 284-8065.

Waukee criticism

By DAN EGGEN

REGISTER STAFF WRITER

Presiding over his first City Council meeting as Waukee's mayor, Claire "Chet" Chedester repeated many of the same criticisms that landed him in political hot water before he even took office.

"There (are) so many areas that (are) not up to par," Chedester said.

"The wheel's not broken, but does have a bad break in it, or should I say a chip out of it."

Officially speaking, Monday was the first day on the job for Chedester, a 46-year-old businessman and a retired bank manager who won election in November by 32 votes.

But realistically, it was hard on Chedester's first day of mayor work.

The contrarian mayor-elect, who campaigned as a "hands-on" candidate, set the quiet suburb abuzz with some radical ideas for change after his election.

In letters to the City Council and

There is still time to register for that Composition class you've wanted to or needed to take.

ENGL 117 (with a Prerequisite) Composition 3 credits all classes will be held at the Ankeny Campus and cost \$139.35+.

- Section D meets Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:05 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.
- Section E meets Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
- Section O meets Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11:15 a.m. to 12:40 p.m.
- Section V meets Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11:15 a.m. to 12:40 p.m.
- Section L meets Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 12:20 p.m. to 1:45 p.m.
- Section M meets Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 12:20 p.m. to 1:45 p.m.
- Section R meets Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 12:20 p.m. to 1:45 p.m.
- Section P meets Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 1:25 p.m. to 2:20 p.m.
- Section Q meets Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 1:25 p.m. to 2:20 p.m.
- Section T meets Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 2:30 p.m. to 3:25 p.m.

Classes start January 18, 1994.

Call 964-6800 to register.

DMACC will be closed at 3 PM December 23rd-January 3rd

DMACC

Source: Iowa Territorial and State Legislators Collection compiled by volunteers and staff at the State Historical Society of Iowa Library, Des Moines, Iowa.

Dateline IOWA

Slifes' funeral moved to larger church

Cedar Falls, Ia. (AP) — The funeral for former state Sen. Harry Slife and his wife, Polly, will be Friday at 2 p.m. at Nazareth Lutheran Church in Cedar Falls.

The service was moved from the Slifes' church — St. Timothy's United Methodist — because Nazareth Lutheran is bigger.

The Slifes, both 70, died Sunday when their car slid into the path of an oncoming vehicle on Iowa Highway 9 four miles east of Decorah.

Harry Slife served in the Iowa Senate from 1991-93. He was also former president of Rath Packing Co. and Black Hawk Broadcasting Co.

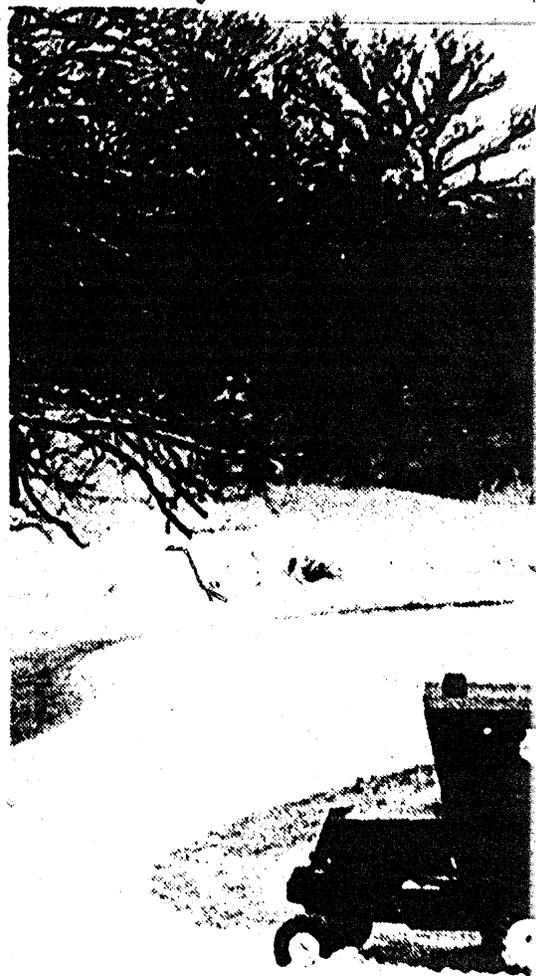
Visitation will be from 6 to 9 p.m. Thursday at the funeral home and 10 a.m. to noon Friday at Nazareth Lutheran Church.

Buena Vista College teacher's death is suicide

THE REGISTER'S IOWA NEWS SERVICE

Storm Lake, Ia. — An assistant professor of business at Buena Vista College died last week in what school officials say was a suicide.

Carroll Vaughn, 61, of Storm Lake died Dec. 28 in a Warrensburg, Mo., motel room of asphyxiation. He taught for the Storm Lake-based college for five years and at the college's Council Bluffs center off and on since the early 1980s, said Susan Cameron, director of college relations.



Des Moines city workers plow snow

Council members

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Individual Record

FamilySearch™ U.S. Social Security Death Index

Search Results

Select record to download - Maximum: 50

 Harry SLIFE

Birth Date: 7 Feb 1923
Death Date: 2 Jan 1994
Social Security Number: 120-05-6351
State or Territory Where Number Was Issued: New York

Death Residence Localities

ZIP Code: 50613
Localities: Blackhawk Village, Black Hawk, Iowa
Brookside, Black Hawk, Iowa
Cedar City, Black Hawk, Iowa
Cedar Falls, Black Hawk, Iowa
College Square, Black Hawk, Iowa
North Cedar, Black Hawk, Iowa

[Return to search results](#)[Prepare selected records for download](#)

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