

Heintz, Zelma B. (Smith)

7-13-1999

ZELMA HEINTZ

Des Moines

Zelma Belle Heintz, 89, of the 3000 block of 45th Street died Tuesday from smoke inhalation in a house fire. Graveside services were held Monday at Evergreen Cemetery in Collins.

Mrs. Heintz was born in Collins and lived in Des Moines most of her life. She was a homemaker and a member of Collins Christian Church.

Surviving are a daughter, Romalyn Jean Parson of Milwaukie, Ore.; and two grandchildren.

Memorial contributions may be made to Mid-Iowa Alzheimer's Association. Bacon Funeral Home in Nevada handled arrangements.

Zelma Belle Heintz

Nov. 4, 1909-JULY 13, 1999

Zelma Belle Heintz, 89, of Des Moines, died at her home from smoke inhalation due to a house fire Tuesday. Graveside services will be 11 a.m. Monday at the Collins Evergreen Cemetery with the Rev. Scott Jones officiating.

Zelma Belle Heintz was born in Collins, the daughter of Earl and Evelena (Gilley) Smith. She graduated from Collins High School in 1927, and she was a member of the Collins Christian Church. On Aug. 22, 1934, she married Wayne Heintz. They lived in Des Moines all their lives.

Survivors include one daughter, Romalyn Jean Parson of Milwaukee, Ore.; and two grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband.

Visitation will be from 4 to 6 p.m. Sunday at Bacon Funeral Home in Nevada, with the family present during that time.

Memorials may be made to the Mid-Iowa Alzheimer's Association.

Elderly woman dies in fire; paper-covered lamp blamed

7-14-1999

By LEE ROOD

REGISTER STAFF WRITER

A fire ignited by a paper-covered electrical lamp took the life of an 89-year-old Des Moines woman late Tuesday, an investigator said Wednesday.

Zelma B. Heintz of 3015 45th St.

died in her bathroom about midnight, fire investigators said. Heintz was in the habit of covering the lamp near her television with paper and towels to block a glare, and those papers caught on fire, said fire investigator Brad Fousek.

Neighbors noticed the fire about 11:30 p.m. and called authorities. By

then, neighbor Becky Henshaw said, the yellow, single-story home was ablaze and there was little anyone could do.

"It made us all feel so bad because we didn't even know her name," said Henshaw, who had called the Fire Department.

Heintz was a widow and had lived alone in the quiet Beaverdale neighborhood for several years. Fousek said she had suffered from dementia, which could be why she didn't get out of the house. An autopsy found that she died of smoke inhalation.

Fousek said Heintz had a daughter who lives in Oregon and distant relatives in the Des Moines area.

The fire, which ignited much of the living room, caused about \$10,000 in damage.

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