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Tractor Kills Farm Mother

Pet Dog Holds Off Police in Eaton

Charlotte—Mrs. Marie Cook, 42, of Chester township, was killed Tuesday afternoon under the wheels of a tractor on her farm about seven miles northwest of here.

Mrs. Cook apparently had leaned back to unhitch a plow from the tractor while the machine was in reverse gear, officers said. Officers believe she lost her balance, falling between the tractor and the plow.

A pet Shepherd dog held off for 20 minutes the attempts of Eaton county sheriff's officers to get near the body of Mrs. Cook.

Police said the machine "churned" for about an hour before the accident was discovered.

Mrs. Cook's mother, Mrs. Myra Boyles, who lives on the farm, became alarmed at hearing the tractor run so long, officers said she told them. An invalid, Mrs. Boyles called a neighbor, Mrs. Verdon Cronk, who discovered the mishap.

She managed to shut off the engine after being bitten by the dog.

Son Calls Off Dog.

After officers failed to get past the dog to the body of the dead woman, a son, Dale, was summoned from school. He called off the dog.

Deputies said the police car earlier had been driven close to the body and it was determined the woman was dead. They said if there had been any chance of life police would have destroyed the dog, but "he was merely doing his duty, protecting his mistress, and we just couldn't kill him for that."

Coroner M. Donald Burkhead said death was caused by a neck fracture.

Surviving, besides the mother and Dale, are four other sons, Devire, Duane, Dorr and Darwin, all at home; a brother, Irvin Boyles of Milwaukee, Wis., and a half-brother, Clifford Foster of Owosso.

Services will be held at 2 Thursday in the Pray funeral home. Burial will be in Millerburg cemetery, Carmel township.

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Chester Woman Killed In Tractor Mishap

244

Mrs. Marie Cook, 42, was instantly killed on her farm in a tractor accident late Tuesday afternoon.

According to Eaton Co. Sheriff officers, Mrs. Cook had finished plowing a field, had the tractor in reverse, was unhooking the plow from it, and apparently lost her balance and fell backward off the machine, which rolled over her.

The left rear wheel of the tractor ran over the woman's left shoulder.

Mrs. Cook's mother, Mrs. Myra Boyles, an invalid, became alarmed when she heard the tractor churning in one spot, and telephoned a neighbor, Mrs. Berdon Cronk who hurrying to the scene of the accident was bitten by Mrs. Cook's dog, which was guarding the body.

Officers were kept from the scene of the tragedy for 20 minutes until Mrs. Cook's son, Dale, could be called home from school to lure the animal away.

Coroner M. Donald Burkhead pronounced the death accidental.

Mrs. Cook was born Feb. 7, 1909, in Carmel Twp., the daughter of George and Myra (Davis) Boyles. Her husband, Willis, a farmer, died Oct. 8, 1945. Surviving are five sons, Devier, Dale, Duane, Dorr and Darwin, and Mrs. Cook's mother, Mrs. Boyles, all at home; a brother Irvin Boyles of Milwaukee, and a half-brother, Clifford Foster of Owosso.

Vermontville Farmer Dies At Charlotte Hospital Feb. 15

Alonzo Pearl Walker, 58, of Route 1; Vermontville; died February 15 at Hayes-Green Beach hospital in Charlotte after a short illness. He spent his entire married life farming in this area.

Born July 3; 1894 in Shiawassee county; Mr. Walker was the son of Frank and Lula Walker. He married Vera Flewelling.

Survivors besides the widow include two brothers: Carl Walker of Lansing and Muri Walker of Sunfield; a sister - Verna Meyers of Lake Odessa; and several nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held at Mapes Funeral home Feb. 18 with Rev. D. A. Rood of Vermontville officiating. Burial was in the Freemire cemetery.