

BERAN, WALTER JOHN
April 14, 1904-June 4, 1936

Walter Beran, a young farmer living ten miles southwest of Wheatland, was instantly killed by a bolt of lightning afternoon, June 4 while attending to work of irrigation on his farm. Word of his death came as a shock to all.

Walter John Beran was born April 14, 1904 at Wheatland. On July 23, 1927, he was united in marriage to Ethel Colvin. To this union, one son was born, but passed away in infancy. He leaves to mourn his passing his wife, father and mother, Mr. and Mrs. A.D. Beran; two sisters, Mrs. Joe Lack and Mrs. Lawrence Moulding; two brothers, Wilmer and Paul, all of Wheatland except Paul who resides at Hailey, Idaho. He also leaves one cousin, Mrs. A.A. Suntych and several nieces and nephews.

He was very active in the Odd Fellows lodge of which he had been a member ten years.

The storm which resulted in death of Mr. Beran swept through the country about four o'clock Thursday afternoon and in many places was accompanied by severe lightning. Mr. Beran had gone to the field to irrigate and it is believed with the severity of the storm, he had taken shelter under a tree on the line fence and was evidently sitting down with his back to the tree when lightning struck the fence. Near the tree and beneath the fence were a number of short pieces of wire. Examining the conditions of the ground, Coroner J.A. Payne and Dr. H.M. Coe determined the bolt traveled along the fence until it reached the short pieces of wire and from there to the tree and through the body of the man, striking slightly below the collar of his leather jacket. Death being instantaneously.

Mrs. Beran waited supper for his return but when he failed to come, search was made with the result his body was found about seven o'clock.

Mr. Beran was 32 years, 1 month and 20 days old, and his untimely taking has caused a shadow of sorrow over the entire community. He was a young man greatly admired by everyone and this was clearly demonstrated at the large attendance at the funeral which was held Monday afternoon at the First Congregational church in Wheatland. Rev. L.W. Flenner, pastor of the church officiated. Following services at the church, the IOOF lodge had charge of the final services at the grave.