

Denny Joe Blankenship

Occupant Name: Denny Joe Blankenship

Location: Section W, Lot 28

Date of Birth: 5/29/1951

Date of Death: 4/20/1977

Date of Burial: 4/23/1977

Veteran: No

Lot Owner: E. Blankenship

Multiple Occupants: No

Comment:

Two Electrocuted

Two Brownstown residents were killed Wednesday night, April 20, when a radio antenna they were erecting fell into a power line.

Brownstown police said Mrs. Janet Ault, 39, of 119 Stillwell St., was killed instantly. Her son-in-law, Denny Joe Blankenship, 25, of 114 W. Miller St., died after numerous attempts to revive him.

"They got him to breathing on his own for a little while," said State Police Trooper Charles E. Conrad, Sr., whose home is about a block away from the Ault residence where the accident occurred. "The medics worked awfully hard to try to bring them around," Conrad added.

The state trooper said he and his wife had just finished dinner when they heard a loud popping noise. He said the lights went off for a moment "and then we heard screams from down at the bottom of the hill."

Conrad said the Ross Ambulance arrived shortly after he reached the Ault residence with Officers Clayton Davidson and William Wheeler of the Brownstown police. Brownstown volunteer firemen also were called to the scene.

Conrad said that when police arrived at the scene it was apparent that Mrs. Ault was "already gone," but police and the ambulance attendants tried frantically to revive her. The victims did not appear to be burned, but their bodies were "very gray, like they had lost a lot of blood," Conrad said.

"We used pulmonary resuscitation with Blankenship and got him breathing. Then we would lose him, work some more with him and get him breathing again." This went on for some time until he finally died an hour after the mishap.

Conrad said a third person was involved in the accident but was not seriously injured.

According to witnesses, Blankenship, his mother-in-law and the third person were trying to put up the citizens band radio antenna from the ground and attach it to the side of the house roof when it got

away from them and fell into the wires, causing a fuse in the transformer to blow. A power outage occurred in the immediate area until Public Service workers arrived and restored power.

Deputy Coroner Keith Burkholder ruled that death was due to asphyxiation due to accidental electrocution.

Double funeral services will be conducted at 2 p.m. today, Saturday, April 23, from the Spurgeon Funeral Home. The Rev. Albert Skaggs will officiate and burial will be in Fairview Cemetery.

Mr. Blankenship was born May 29, 1951, in Jackson County to Thomas E. and Pauline Mickel Blankenship. Both reside in Brownstown.

On Nov. 2, 1971, in Brownstown he married the former Betty Lou Benton. Mrs. Blankenship and their son, Douglas Eugene, reside at home.

Mr. Blankenship also is survived by one brother, Thomas Lee, of Virginia Beach, Va., who is in the U.S. Navy, and three sisters, Mrs. Reva June Beavers, of Seymour Rt. 7, Mrs. Barbara Burke, of Grissom Air Force Base, Peru, Ind., and Mrs. Delores Beasley, of Carrollton, Ga.

Mr. Blankenship was employed with Bowman Disposal, Inc.

Mrs. Janet Faye Benton Ault was born June 4, 1937 to John and Dorothy Nowling Pray. The mother survives and lives in Seymour.

Mrs. Ault married Bennie Benton, Jr., who preceded her in death. She married Donald Pat Ault on July 29, 1976. He survives.

She was a member of Calvary Baptist Church in Seymour.

Other survivors include two sons, Richard Benton and Donald Eugene Benton, both of Brownstown; three daughters, Miss Penny Benton, of Madison, Mrs. Betty Blankenship of Brownstown and Miss Joyce Ann Benton, of Brownstown.

She also is survived by four brothers, Don Pray and Ronald Pray, both of Seymour, and Jerry Pray, of Brownstown; one sister, Mrs. Oleva Meadors, of Brownstown, and three grandchildren.

