

State Sen. Popp, Wife Killed After Car Hits Truck

HUTCHINSON, Minn. — State Sen. Harold R. Popp and his wife, Winifred, died Friday after their car collided with a pickup truck about 18 miles east of Hutchinson.



Popp

Mrs. Popp was dead on the scene and Popp died at Methodist Hospital, St. Louis Park. The driver of the truck, John Arens Jr., rural Young America, Minn., suffered a lacerated lip and a bruised left leg, but was not hospitalized.

The accident occurred a mile east of Hwy. 261 on Hwy. 7 in McLeod County, according to the State Highway Patrol. The Popp's car, heading west, skidded on an ice patch and crossed into the eastbound lane, striking the pickup truck.

Popp, 65, was elected to the Senate in 1958 as an independent, but he caucused as a Conservative. He was chairman of the Welfare-Corrections subcommittee of the Finance Committee.

He also was chairman of the Senate Elections Committee. Between the 1967 and 1969 sessions he led a special Senate committee studying the need for a second medical school in Minnesota.

Popp served as mayor of Hutchinson from 1953-58 before coming to the Senate. From 1949 to 1953 he was a member of the Hutchinson school board.

A graduate of the University of Wisconsin School of Pharmacy, he owned the Popp Rexall Drug Store in Hutchinson.

The Popp's had one daughter, Susan, who survives.

A. Morris, 23, 2515 Stevens Av. S., stopped his truck, a car also struck Thompson and he became wedged beneath the car. Police said the driver of the car was Robert W. Sorenson, 23, 1419 W. 27th St.

Morris used the tow truck to lift the Sorenson car and free Thompson about 11:40 p.m.

Thompson died at Hennepin County General Hospital about 3 a.m.

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