

MITCHELL, Frederick Garfield

HASTINGS CO. - B106

Former Warden Killed In Train Collision

*Intel
June 26/78*

A past warden of Hastings County died instantly Monday night when the tractor he was driving was sliced in half by a Canadian National train along Thurlow Township's second concession.

Frederick Garfield Mitchell, 78, who lived opposite the level crossing with one of his sons, was pronounced dead at the scene by Coroner Dr. William Bates.

He was returning to cut hay on a neighbor's farm on the south side of CN's double-track main line just before 7:30 p.m. when a westbound train went by. After it had passed, he started across but apparently did not see an eastbound freight approaching in the opposite direction.

The front portion of the tractor lay only a few feet from the private crossing while the remainder was situated about 200 feet up the

tracks. The train was delayed for only a short time.

A veteran of many years in municipal work, Mr. Mitchell served for 12 years on Thurlow township council. He was first elected in 1943 serving as councillor until 1950 when he became deputy reeve of the municipality.

In 1951 he was elected reeve of the township and served on county council for four years. He retired from municipal life after serving as Hastings county warden in 1954.

From 1951 until 1954 Mr. Mitchell acted as his township's representative on the Moira River Conservation Authority.

A retired farmer, he lived with his son Donald on the township's second concession about half a mile east of Elmwood drive. Another son, Manley, lives next door.