

# Blast Victim Dies Sunday At Hospital

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Orman Benjamin Merrell, 57, who was severely burned in an explosion at his home two weeks ago, died at 6:28 a.m. Sunday at St. Joseph Hospital.

Merrell received third degree burns when a basement heater in his Kappa Road home exploded while he was working on it. He was burned on the face, neck, shoulders, arms and back.

The blast collapsed the ceiling and floor of the kitchen and tore a hole in the living room floor. A stairway to the second floor was demolished and windows throughout the house were broken.

He was born July 12, 1897 in Ervin Township, the son of Robert W. and Martha Jane (Malaby) Merrell. On Jan. 4, 1928 he married Arbell E. Haworth, who survives.

Other survivors include: one daughter, Mrs. Clyde Heaton, Kokomo R. R. 2, three sons, Robert, Kokomo R. R. 2 and Dale and Paul, at home; two brothers, Ward, Galveston R. R. 1 and Clarence, Kokomo R. R. 2; five sisters, Mrs. Edna Hoffman, Miss Allie Merrell, Mrs. Omer Smith, all of Kokomo R. R. 2, Miss Dorothy Merrell, Kokomo and Mrs. Wayne Loman, Bringhurst R. R. 1, and four grandchildren. One son, Harold E., is deceased.

Mr. Merrell was a lifelong resident of Howard County. He was a member of the Bethel Friends Church.

Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Tuesday at the Bethel Friends Church with the Rev. Wilna Moon in charge. Burial will be in North Union Cemetery.

The body will be removed from the Thomas Funeral Home, Galveston, to the Robert Merrell residence, where friends may call after 6 p.m. Monday.