Man Killed When Struck By Truck

George Coates, 39, a river worker employed at Lexington, Mo., was killed instantly at 12:30 o'clock Sunday morning when struck by a transport truck as he was walking down highway 40 about six miles east of Boonville.

After the driver of the truck and a companion driver who was riding with him had testified at the inquest Sunday morning that the truck had been driven two feet onto the shoulder to avoid striking Coates, the jury, called by Coroner T. C. Richards returned a verdict of "death by unavoidable accident."

It was brought out at the inquest that Coates was hitch-hiking from Lexington to Rocheport, where he intended to visit with relatives.

The truck driver, whose name is Reynolds, testified that he was driving a truck operated by L. Bridgewater of Kansas City, Mo., said Coates was walking in the center of the concrete slab. Reynolds said he pulled the truck over two feet onto the shoulder and managed to avoid the river worker with the tractor part of the vehicle but that Coates either walked or fell into the left side of the truck trailer.

Coates is the son of A. E. Coates of Hallsville. Funeral services were held Tuesday afternoon near Hallsville.

The coroner's jury called in the case was composed of Fred Marshall, Perry Downing, Sam Fischer, E. O. Brookman, Doc Farmer, and John Watkins.