

March 18, 1940 Wausaukee Independent Newspaper

FROM THE EDITORS' DESK IN PASSING

Jerry DeGroot is dead, but lives in the hearts of the citizens of this community and will always do so until the last person that ever knew him joins the ranks of the deceased.

His untimely death, caused Wednesday by an alleged electrical shock, removed from this community an example of what man can be if his mind and body are trained in the path of cleanliness.

His mode of life should stand as an example for us all to shoot at. He neither cursed his neighbor, under any circumstances, nor did he abuse his own life. He remained satisfied with life and approaches as near as is humanly possible what we would all like to be – a Christian.

Jerry was never a senator, he was never a potentate, he did not strive for earthly power and earned his material gains by hard work and diligence. He was not the holder of a college degree but his common sense and code of ethics lifts him above all we know.

When he walked into a room, whether it contained few or many, the feeling of presence of someone wholesome and clean could be felt by all. His smile and mirthful ejaculations were known throughout the community. People blessed him for what he was. None were jealous of him because they all loved him as a soldier of righteousness.

It seems a pity and a shame, but it is ~~probably~~ God's will, to lose the association of one with such dynamic character and wholesomeness. Jerry was not an elected leader but was a leader, nevertheless, by virtue of the fact that he was so fair and honest.

We cannot find words in our humble number to truly chronicle the merits he deserves. It might be better to say that here was a man after the true pattern of God. He deserved Heavenly life. May God rest his soul.

SHOCK WAS FATAL TO JERRY DEGROOT FUNERAL SERVICES WILL BE CONDUCTED SATURDAY MORNING FROM CHURCH

A tragic accident resulting in the death of Wausaukee's finest man occurred Wednesday afternoon. Gerald DeGroot, beloved by all who knew him was stricken while working at the Wausaukee Cheese Factory. The accident occurred about 4:16 in the afternoon and death was allegedly caused by electrocution from a shorted motor driven cutting machine.

Jerry along with Stanley Kadunc was working in the factory cutting the curds into fine fragments when the cutting machine was said to have become clogged by a cheese particle. Upon reaching for the motor driven cog wheel to shake the bit of curd loose Jerry completed a circuit from the shorted motor. His cry caused Kadunc to quickly pull the plug connecting the motor from the wall.

When the power was cut, Jerry loosed his grip, staggered back two steps and fell to the floor where he remained motionless. Medical aid was summoned immediately and a heroic fight of about five hours was made in an attempt to save his life.

For hours the assembled men worked unceasingly trying to bring a spark of life to the body by using artificial respiratory methods. A call was placed to the sheriff's office at Marinette for a pulmotor. Sheriff Arthur Woulf immediately contacted the Marinette Fire Department and arrived in record time with Chief Otto Hackbarth and Joseph Peanowaki. They applied the pulmotor and artificial respiratory methods were continuously employed but to no avail.

It was believed by many on the scene that death occurred when the full force of the electrical shock was felt. It was a pity to see the magnificent body of the healthy youth stretched out and not

being able to do something to restore life. His mother and father were bravely waiting word of the tireless efforts of the men but were met by the grim statement of hopelessness.

The news of the tragedy caused a gloom to fall over the community where Jerry was respected and loved by all. Rev. M. Jacowski was summoned immediately after the accident and administered the last rites of the church.

Obituary **Born In Wausaukee**

Gerald John Degroot was born February 15, 1910, in Wausaukee to Mr. and Mrs. John DeGroot. He spent his entire life in Wausaukee. Upon completing his schooling he worked for several years with his father on the large farm east of the village. He was then engaged in trucking milk for Oscar Mays for several years. For the past seven years he was employed as the head cheese maker at the Wausaukee Cheese Factory and was working there when the accident occurred.

He was a member of the local Catholic Order of Foresters and the Holy Name society. He was respected throughout the community and county for his clean Christian life and his pleasant personality won him as friends everyone he knew.

He is survived besides his parents, by three sisters and seven brothers. The sisters are Mrs. Clarence Champeau, Green Bay; Sister M. Maurice, teaching in a Catholic School at Racine, and Mrs. Paul Bentley of Milwaukee; brothers are; Edwin of Chilton, Raymond of DePere, Cyril of Chicago, Rendall of Green Bay, Jack Richard and Robert at home.

Funeral services under the direction of the Bunker Funeral Home will be conducted from St. Augustine's Church in Wausaukee Saturday morning at 9 o'clock. Rev. M. Jacowski will celebrate the mass for the dead and conduct services at the grave. Interment will be in the family lot in the Wausaukee cemetery in which a younger brother is buried who died at birth some years ago. Pall bearers will be made up of six of this brothers. Numerous floral and spiritual contributions were made in honor of the deceased.

The Independent joins in expressing sympathy to the bereaved family.