

(Handwritten date: Friday, June 25, 1943)

ADAMS COUNTY FARMER IS SERIOUSLY BURNED

Joseph Steffen Home Destroyed By Fire

An Adams county farmer is seriously burned and his wife is suffering from less severe burns, inflicted last evening at 7 o'clock in a gasoline explosion, which completely destroyed their home, west of Monroe on state road 124.

Joseph Steffen, 41, is in the Wells county hospital at Bluffton with severe burns about the chest, arms and shoulders, sustained when he attempted to extinguish the fire. His wife is suffering from burns about the hands and arms, which are not severe enough to require hospitalization.

The entire two-story structure was destroyed, as was all of the household furniture, excepting a new living room suite, and all of the family's clothing, excepting that which they were wearing. Three daughters escaped injury.

The fire is believed to have started while Mr. Steffen was filling the tank on a gasoline stove with a five-gallon can. The contents of the can were spilled and presumably ran under a gas-operated refrigerator, which had an open flame, and ignited. The five-gallon can exploded, spewing the burning liquid over the kitchen.

The Bluffton fire department was summoned but was not called in time to extinguish the burning residence. Firemen did manage, however, to save several buildings.

The residence was owned by Charles Myers of that community. The loss was believed to be partly covered by insurance.

(Handwritten date: Monday, June 28, 1943)

FUNERAL FOR LAKE VICTIM ON WEDNESDAY

Forest Eugene Myers, 23, Meets Death At Rome City Sunday

Funeral services for Forest Eugene Myers, 23, 1308 Fairfield Avenue, who was drowned at Sylvan Lake, Rome City, at 3:30 p.m. Sunday, will be held at 2 o'clock Wednesday afternoon at the Rodenbeck-Trier Funeral Home. The Rev. S. A. Wells, pastor of the Calvary United Brethren Church, will officiate and interment will take place in Greenlawn Memorial Park Cemetery.

Myers, who was reported not to be able to swim, had been in the water near the bathing beach with Jack Koontz, 19, residing at the YMCA, who had been diving from a boat. Koontz missed Myers and immediately spread the alarm. No one saw Myers go down.

(Missing type)....effort to find the youth and State Policeman John Herzog and Russell Lindsey and others in boats dragged the lake bottom. Robert Adams, 26, and William Huff, 16, both of Rome City, recovered the body in 15 feet of water half an hour after Myers was last seen.

EFFORTS TO REVIVE FUTILE

The Kendallville Fire Department provided resuscitator equipment but efforts to revive the youth failed. Dr. John D. Hall of Kendallville, Noble County coroner, pronounced death due to accidental drowning.

The body was taken to the L. E. Berhalter & Son Mortuary at Kendallville, and later to the Rodenbeck-Trier Funeral Home here.

Myers was born at Decatur and came to Fort Wayne with his parents in 1928. The youth, who was employed at the plant of the Farnsworth Television and Radio Corporation, was graduated from Central High School in 1938. He was a member of the Calvary United Brethren Church and of Local No. 902, United Electrical and Radio Workers (cut off)

...first drowning victim of the Summer season, is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Myers. Surviving besides them are a brother, Willard Myers, at home, and two sisters, Mrs. Virgil Cox and Mrs. Rowena Walters, both of Fort Wayne.

(Handwritten date: Wednesday, June 16, 1943)

NAOMI STUDLER TO WED NOBLE HILTY

Marriage to take place at Phoenix, Ariz., June 26 - S. Sergt. Hilty There

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Studler of 1602 High street, Fort Wayne, announce the approaching marriage of their daughter, Naomi, to Staff Sergeant Noble Hilty, son of Chris Hilty of Berne. The nuptials will

be read in the chapel at Luke Field, Phoenix, Arizona, on June 26. The bride-elect, accompanied by her mother, will leave for the west on June 23.

Miss Studler is a graduate of Hartford township high school and of Ball State Teachers' College. She was a former teacher in the Linn Grove school and for the past two years has been teaching in the Lincoln school at Fort Wayne. Sergeant Hilty enlisted in the Air Corps in January of 1941, and is now stationed at the Ajo Gunnery Base, Ajo, Arizona, where the couple will make their home.

(Handwritten date: Friday, June 11, 1943)

ERNEST Hiestand ACCEPTS NEW POST

Ernest Hiestand, son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Hiestand, southeast of town, who for the past twelve years was superintendent of the Eden township school at Melmore, Ohio, has accepted a two-year contract as superintendent of the Old Fort, Ohio, school. Mr. Hiestand, who has been teaching for the past sixteen years, achieved an excellent record at the school he is now leaving. He will move with his family to Old Fort this summer, his wife being the former Miss Louise Hilty, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Hilty, of this place.

Adams County (IN) Historical Society
1943b Scrapbook, Image 119-120
Transcribed by Karin King