

(Handwritten date: Thursday, September 2, 1943)

RALPH PERKINS' BODY IS FOUND IN SYLVAN LAKE

Fisherman Find Missing Fort Wayne Man in Water in Boathouse

After a five-day search, the body of Ralph Perkins, 52, ?? Archer Avenue, was found floating on top of the water in a boathouse near the Mainland on Sylvan Lake about 10:30 a.m. today.

The body, badly decomposed, was discovered by two fishermen, Walter Fidler, Peru, and M. R. Mossman, 2415 Smith Street, Fort Wayne, who went to investigate an odor emanating from the boathouse.

State police, who began dragging the lake shortly after Perkins was reported missing on Saturday night, were still conducting a search for him when the body was found.

Dr. John Hall, Kendallville, Noble County coroner, said death was due to accidental drowning. The boathouse is part of the lake equipment of the Lookout Cottage, owned by a Mrs. Norwood, of Cleveland, O.

WAS WELL-KNOWN

Mr. Perkins, who was in charge of the employes' store at the General Electric Broadway plant and was well known in athletic circles as a timekeeper at boxing matches, was last seen at 7 o'clock Saturday night when he left Fort Wayne.

He went to visit a brother, Robert Perkins, who resides in a cottage on Lovett's Point on Sylvan Lake.

Late Saturday night, Perkins' automobile containing a suitcase and other personal belongings, was found parked near the cottage by (cut off) ...duplex lake residence.

The body, which was fully clothed, was found some distance (cut off)

After Mr. Perkins failed to return, state police began dragging the lake with grappling hooks on the theory that he might have fallen into the water. He had been under a doctor's care for nervousness.

Relatives said that Mr. Perkins never ventured in to a boat on his frequent visits to the lake and that he usually spent his time sitting on the pier.

He had been an employe of the Broadway plant of the G. E. since 1919.

The body was to be brought to Fort Wayne this afternoon and taken to the Klaehn and Sons' Funeral Home.

(Handwritten date: Saturday, September 25, 1943)

SAM REINHART QUILTS COUNTY INFIRMARY

Frank Kitson New Head of Infirmary

Sam Reinhart has resigned, effective September 30, as superintendent of the Adams county infirmary, which includes the management of the 274 acre county farm, and

Frank Kitson of West Monroe street, now employed at the General Electric plant, has been named by the county commissioners to fill the post.

Mr. Reinhart's resignation was tendered to the commissioners in a special meeting last evening. He did not state a reason for resigning.

For the past month a change in the superintendency at the infirmary has been brewing. At the September session of the county commissioners, the matter was discussed behind closed doors and Frank Farnum, state inspector of county infirmaries, was called in for consultation. No statement was issued by the commissioners, but speculation had it that an agreement had been reached that Mr. Reinhart would resign. At that time the name of Mr. Kitson was mentioned as the possible appointee.

Mr. Reinhart was appointed by the county commissioners in January, 1940, and assumed his duties March 1 of that year. He succeeded Harvey LaFontaine, who had resigned to engage in farming. Mr. Kitson will probably be appointed for the unexpired term and then given a four-year contract next March.

...he has been employed in the Decatur plant of the General Electric company.

With the change in superintendents, a new matron of the infirmary will automatically assume her duties. This will be Mrs. Kitson, who will succeed Mrs. Reinhart.

The superintendent's post pays \$1,800 and an allowance of \$400 is given to the matron. Their living is also furnished as residents of the infirmary.

Mr. Reinhart did not make known his future plans. He has been considering other employment, it was stated. The institution has 32 inmates, several of whom are invalids.

Occupancy of the new \$100,000 county infirmary took place last April. The new building replaced the old infirmary that was destroyed by fire in August, 1941. For several months the inmates, all of whom were safely removed from the burning building, were removed to the Allen county infirmary. Later they were transferred to the old country club building, at the south edge of the city limits, when the commissioners rented the place from Cal Yost and made the necessary changes in order to house about 20 of the inmates.

Mr. Reinhart was a Democrat, appointed by a Democrat board of commissioners. Mr. Kitson is a Republican, the board of commissioners now consisting of two Republicans and one Democrat. The members are Dale Moses, president; John Christener and Eli Dubach.

(Handwritten date: Monday, August 16, 1943)

Mrs. Lydia Mertz had as her guest her sister, Ellen Sleighbaugh, who visited relatives and friends in this vicinity and returned to her home at Canton, Ohio.

Adams County (IN) Historical Museum

1943B Scrapbook, image 89

Transcribed by Karin King