

Wilcox, Robert Guy
d. July 9, 1951

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**Funeral Services
This Afternoon For
Robert Guy Wilcox**

Funeral services for Robert Guy Wilcox, who lost his life in the fire at his home early Monday morning, were held at the Smith funeral home this afternoon in charge of Rev. William Welsh. Music was provided by Mr. and Mrs. Edward Bohstedt and casket bearers were L. W. Brock, Warren Grooms, C. J. McCurry and Eldon Olds. Graveside services in Hazelwood were in accordance with the ritual of the American Legion, Sam Ragan, commander.

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Grinnell Herald-Register

A NEWSPAPER FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

EIGHTY-FOURTH YEAR

GRINNELL, POWESHIEK COUNTY, IOWA, MONDAY, JULY 9, 1951

NO. 29

Robert Wilcox Dies In Early Morning Fire

Jas. Norman Hall Died In Tahiti Home

Heart Attack Ends Colorful Life of Famous Author Friday Morning

Death has ended the romantic, adventurous career of James Norman Hall, the Colfax boy who served in the English and American armies during World War I, then settled in Tahiti and became nationally famous as the author, with his collaborator, Charles Bernard Nordhoff, of South Sea stories, such as "Mutiny on the Bounty," "Pitcairn Island," "The Hurricane," and many others which brought them fame and fortune.

Distinguished Alumnus
He was one of the most distinguished alumni of Grinnell college, which granted him an honorary degree at the fortieth anniversary of his 1910 class at the 1950 commencement.

Death came to him early Friday morning at his home in apete, Tahiti, following a heart attack. He is survived by his wife, Sarah; two children, Mrs. Nicholas Rutgers of Honolulu, Hawaii, and Conrad of Hollywood, Calif.; two sisters, Mrs. J. Clark Graham of Yankton, S. Dak., and Mrs. E. J. Forsythe of Fargo, N. Dak., and a brother, Fred, who still lives in the old Hall home in Colfax. He was last in this country in May of 1950, when he visited his native town of Colfax.

Hall and Nordhoff came into prominence when they wrote the history of the Lafayette Escadrille, famous flying outfit of World War I of which Hall was a member for a time. He was shot down in combat and was a German prisoner for a time.

After the war, Hall and Nordhoff found a congenial refuge in Tahiti, and began their



James Norman Hall fruitful literary partnership which continued for many years.



FIRE'S ORIGIN: The charred remains of the Wilcox kitchen at 517 2nd avenue still house the kerosene range which is believed to have started the fire early this morning. Kenneth Wilcox is at left. A five-gallon can of kerosene which was beside the stove is thought to have exploded.



FATHER'S WINDOW: Kenneth Wilcox, 16, looks up at the window (top right) from which his father, Robert Wilcox, had broken the glass. Mr. Wilcox was suffocated by the smoke from the fire before he could jump. Kenneth had jumped from his bedroom window in the north end of the house and ran around to the front of the house to aid his father. When Mr. Wilcox did not jump, Kenneth climbed up on the frame of the window below and attempted to reach his father without success.

4-H Fair Dates Are August 20 To 23, Grinnell

Commercial Exhibits To Be Accepted For First Time This Year

The 1951 Poweshiek County 4-H Fair is scheduled to be held at Grinnell at the new fairgrounds August 20-23. A meeting was held by the Board of Directors Friday evening, July 6, to make plans for this year's activities.

An added feature of this year's show will be some commercial exhibits. Seed corn companies and implement dealers are invited to have an exhibit. Any commercial company interested in having a display should contact L. E. Raffety, Route 2, Grinnell, chairman of the exhibit committee or L. D. Brown, secretary, Brooklyn, Ia.

This year's fair is expected to be the largest ever held since the 4-H membership in Poweshiek County is at a new high. The fair this year will extend over a four-day period with



WILCOX FAMILY MEMBERS: Mrs. Robert Wilcox (center) and her son, Kenneth, 16, look over some pictures which were salvaged early this morning from their burning home at 517 2nd avenue. A daughter, Mrs. LaVerne Routier, and her four-month-old son, LaVerne, Jr., inspect one of the baby's shoes which was burned in the fire. The picture was taken at a neighbor's home, Mrs. Albert Burnham.

Man Trapped In Room Dies Of Suffocation

Kerosene Stove Is Blamed For Fire At 517 Second Avenue

Robert Guy Wilcox, age 64, perished in an early morning fire at his home at 517 Second avenue. Dr. T. E. Brobyn pronounced Wilcox dead of suffocation at 5:40 a. m.

Alarm At 4:55 A. M.
Grinnell fire department officials report that the alarm was received at 4:55 a. m.

The family reported that Mrs. Wilcox had left home about 3:30 to go to work at the Rite-Spot. Wilcox's daughter, Mrs. LaVerne Routier, got up at 4 o'clock to feed her baby, LaVerne Routier, Jr., and then lit the kerosene stove to heat some water for dishes. She then went back to bed. The stove was blamed by fire officials as the cause. There was also a five-gallon can of kerosene beside the stove, which probably fed the fire.

Awakened By Fire
Mrs. Routier and her brother Donald, who were sleeping down stairs, were awakened by the fire. The flames had swept up the stairway, blocking the passage. Mrs. Routier took her baby and ran outside to get help at the Albert Burnham home next door.

Her father and another brother, Kenneth, were asleep upstairs. Mr. Wilcox was heard calling for help. Kenneth, who was sleeping in the north bedroom, jumped out of the window and cut his leg. Mr. Wilcox was in the south bedroom, and according to fire department officials, an iron bedstead blocked the window.

Kenneth climbed up the outside of the house near the window of the south bedroom and called at his father to jump. Kenneth's view of the room was blocked by the smoke. When Mr. Wilcox was removed from the room, he was pronounced dead.

Damage to the house and the furnishings were estimated at over \$3,000 by the fire department. Hardly anything of any value was saved from the flames, the family reported.

Moved Here In January
The Wilcox family moved here from Belle Plaine in January. Mr. Wilcox had been working on a farm owned by George Schlu. Mr. Schlu was to have come to pick up Wilcox this morning between 7:30 and 8 o'clock if it wasn't rainy.

Surviving Mr. Wilcox are Mrs. Wilcox, a daughter, Mrs. LaVerne Routier, and three sons, Raymond in the Navy at San Diego, and Kenneth, 16 and Donald 8.

Friends may call at the Smith Funeral Home for further information as the arrangements are pending.

Burial Services