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, POWESIEK COUNTY, IOWA, MONDAY, JULY 9, 1951
NO. 29

Robert Wilcox Dies In Early Morning Fire

Man Trapped In Room Dies Of Suffocation

FIRE'S ORIGIN: The charges remains of the Wilcox kitchen at 517 2nd avenue still house the kerosene can 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, 15, looks up at the window (top right) from which his father, Robert Wilcox, was thrown. The glass door with the smoke from the fire before he could jump. Kenneth had jumped from the second floor 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

Burial Services

Robert Wilcox, age 41, president of an early morning fire at his home at 517 2nd Avenue, Grinnell, was pronounced dead of suffocation at 9:49 a.m.

Moved At 5:30 A.M.

Grinnell fire department officials report that the alarm was received at 5:30 a.m.

The family reported that Mr. Wilcox had left his home at 5:30 to go to work at the Ram- Sport, Wilcox's daughter, Mrs. LaVerne Routier, got up at 4 o'clock to feed her baby, LaVerne Routier, Jr., and then it the kerosene stove to heat some water for dishes. She then went back to bed. The stove was blamed by fire officials at the scene. 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 spread up the stairway, blocking the passage. Mrs. Routier took her baby and ran outside to get help at the Albert Barnhart home next door.

Her father and another brother were staying in town. Mr. Wilcox was heard crying. Another neighbor, who was looking in the north bedroom window, said that he saw the fire and cut Mr. Wilcox's cord. Mr. Wilcox was in the south bedroom. 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 $1,000 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 as a farm hand owned by George Schlee. Mr. Schlee was to have come to pick up Wilcox this morning between 7:30 and 8 o'clock if it wasn't raining. Kenneth Wilcox, a daughter of Mr. Wilcox, and her three cousins, Raymond in the Navy at San Diego, and Kenneth, 15 and Donald, 14.

Friends may call at the Smith family home for further information as the arrangements are pending.

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 some of the baby's clothes which was burned in the fire. The picture was taken at a neighbor's house, Mr. Albert Barnhart.

Burial Services