

rsday, November 23, 1961

etime Resident lph Larsen, 54, succumbs Tuesday

Ralph I. Larsen, 54, Grinnell, died Tuesday afternoon at a Des Moines hospital following a month's illness.

Funeral services will be held at 1:30 p.m. Saturday from the Smith Funeral Home with Dr. G. S. Bruland, pastor of the Methodist church, officiating. Interment will be in Hazelwood cemetery.

He was the son of Lewis and Elida Thorson Larsen and was born in Grinnell May 12, 1907. He attended the Grinnell public schools and on May 15, 1927, at Malcom, was united in marriage with Irene Mavis Murphy by the Rev. Mr. Burdock.

To this union were born two daughters, Mrs. Robert (Velda) Rutherford of Grinnell and Mrs. Jerry (Beverly Joanne) Dimit of Austin, Minn.

In addition to his widow and daughters, Mr. Larsen is survived by five grandchildren; five brothers, Carl of Omaha, Lloyd of Montezuma, Donald E. and Robert of Grinnell, and Roger of Columbus, Neb.; and three sisters, Mrs. Clifford (Louise) Wichman and Mrs. Al (Esther) Ahrens, both of Grinnell, and Mrs. Dominic (Doris) Marino of Hibbing, Minn.

Mr. Larsen was preceded in death by his parents and one sister, Thelma Larsen.

A lifelong resident of Grinnell, he had been a fulltime member of the Grinnell Fire Department for 18 years. He had been a member of the Elks Lodge and was a member of Grinnell Lodge No. 175, Knights of Pythias.

Editorial A Job Well Done 11-27-61

A number of area children lost a good, but probably unknown, friend last week when Grinnell firemen Ralph Larsen succumbed to an illness.

A member of the Grinnell Fire Department for 18 years, Mr. Larsen had spent many long hours over the year repairing, restoring and painting toys for distribution to children of needy families at Christmastime. Broken or discarded toys are collected by the firemen each year, repaired, and then distributed, usually through the Goodfellows.

It's a well known fact that Christmas has been made much brighter for many a youngster because of the efforts of Mr. Larsen and his fellow firemen.

Actually, the toy project is a project of all the members of the local Fire Department. But as a full-time fireman and the longest in that employ, Mr. Larsen had probably devoted more of his time and energy to the task.

Neither Mr. Larsen nor any of his fellow firemen ever received any material reward for

this project with the toys, nor would any of them expect or want one. They received ample payment by knowing they had made a truly Merry Christmas for some children and from the inner satisfaction that comes with the performance of a really good deed.

The project won't pass on with Mr. Larsen, but will be continued annually by his fellow workers in the department. And to all those firemen who assist in this work—past, present, and future—the Herald-Register humbly offers a thank you in the name of all the residents of our city.