

MONTEZUMA MAYOR DIES.

Distressing Accident Takes Away One of Poweshiek's Best Young Men.

One of the most tragic accidents ever recorded in Poweshiek county occurred near Montezuma last Tuesday afternoon, resulting in the death of Newell D. Ormiston, mayor of Montezuma, one of the most popular citizens of the county and universally liked by everyone.

Mayor Ormiston, Marshal Lane Cowell and a number of workmen drove to the septic tank at the edge of town, to flush out the sludge tanks. C. A. Miller, of this city, was talking to Mr. Ormiston only a minute or so before he left on the mission which was to cost him his life.

Out at the tank, really a part of it, is a pit about seven feet deep and four feet square, containing the valves, which are used to flush the tanks, and Marshal Cowell went in to turn on the valves. He went down three different times and the third time it became evident that he was suffering from the effects of the gas. Mr. Ormiston, trying to save his friend, leaned over the edge and in some inexplicable manner, which never will be explained, fell into the pit, and before he could be gotten out, the deadly fumes had rendered him unconscious.

Elijah Shook, another member of the party, showed his gameness by jumping in to help, and according to reports he, too, fell a victim to the gas and in an incredibly short time, three healthy men were lying helpless, with death only a matter of minutes.

Joseph Johnston, working nearby, ran over as soon as he realized the peril of their position, and seeing the futility of attempting a rescue unaided ran to the Marshal's Ford, which, however, failed to start, and more precious moments were lost. Mr. Johnston ran with all his speed to the nearest house, half a mile away, and telephoned for help. The rescue party raced to the scene of the sad accident as quickly as possible, and, arriving,

found Cowell and Shook outside the pit, unconscious. How they managed to get out they are unable to explain, but both men are getting along in good shape and probably will be none the worse for their grim experience.

Mayor Ormiston was less fortunate. He was found in a sitting posture with his face directly in front of a gas jet, and it is likely that he had been dead for several minutes, as all efforts to revive him proved to be in vain.

His untimely death is mourned by hundreds outside of his own city, for as a citizen, a lawyer and thoroughly likable good fellow, he was easily one of the most popular men in the county. He was born, thirty-two years ago, in Brooklyn, where he grew to manhood. He studied law and upon receiving his degree located in Deep River, where he soon had a large following. He was married to Eva Hatter, of Deep River, who with a little daughter, only a few months old, survives him.

At the outbreak of the war, he enlisted in the army and won a lieutenant's commission at a western camp. Upon receiving his discharge from the service he and his family moved to Montezuma, where he immediately won the respect and friendship of the whole community. Last spring he was elected mayor without opposition and his ability in civic matters proved that his term of service would be one of progress for the whole city. He was commander of the Montezuma post of the American Legion and held other positions of trust in that town. His life, ending at an age at which many successful lawyers are just beginning to be known, has been full of success and accomplishment and throughout the whole district it is doubtful if there is a young lawyer who was more respected, admired and liked than this young man, scarcely more than a boy in years, but already definitely established as a successful and honored business man.

The funeral services were held this afternoon at Deep River.