

ALLAN PETERSON CALLED BY DEATH

Aug 5, 1926

His Wife, Carrie Lawrence Peterson
Was Grinnell College Graduate
in 1901.

INSTRUCTOR IN PHYSICS IN
EAST HIGH, DES MOINES.

Many Grinnell Friends Extend Heart-
felt Tribute to Mrs. Peterson
and Son.

Many friends in Grinnell will regret to learn of the death August 5th of Allan Peterson, instructor in Physics in East High School Des Moines.

Mrs. Peterson, who with her son Lawrence H. Peterson, now fourteen years of age, has visited recently in Grinnell, is remembered here as Miss Carrie Lawrence, a graduate of Grinnell High School with the class of 1897 and of Grinnell College in 1901.

Allan Peterson, son of Nels Christia and Marianna Peterson, was born October 11, 1877 on a farm near Harlan, Iowa. Here he grew to young manhood and at the age of 16 was converted in the Baptist Church. He began his work as teacher in his home community in March 1898, having received his early education in the Atlantic Normal School. He graduated from the Iowa State Normal School in 1903, and was for three years Superintendent at Randolph, Iowa. He is also a graduate of Drake University. In 1906 he came to Des Moines as instructor in physics in East High, which place he held until the time of his death, in all twenty years consecutively as head of the science department. In June 1908 he was married to Caroline Lawrence, who was also teaching in East High.

Friday morning Mr. A. W. Merrill, assistant Superintendent of schools in Des Moines, delivered before his summer school classes an earnest and heartfelt tribute of praise to their beloved teacher Allan Peterson. In his high school and summer school work Mr. Peterson has come in contact with literally thousands of young people who love him sincerely, and whose lives have been enriched by his high ideals of scholarship, the efficient training he has given them, and the inspiration of his beautiful Christian life. His talent in making the principles in Physics clearly comprehensible, both to his high school pupils and to the pupil teachers in summer school, amounted to unparalleled genius. Mr. Merrill dismissed his classes for the remainder of the day.

Mr. Peterson was universally loved by the teachers in East High, who have long regarded him as a bulwark

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and unflinching support and sure friend.

In their declining years Mr. Peterson's parents lived in a cozy cottage a few doors distant from his own home, and neighbors speak with feeling of the faithfulness with which Allan always stepped in each day on the way from the street car to his own home, and partook of the cup of coffee which his dear old mother joyously prepared for that happy quarter of an hour.

Funeral services were held at four o'clock Saturday afternoon, at Dunn's, interment being deferred as burial will be on the family lot in the Harlan Cemetery. The services were conducted by Rev. Chas. S. Medbury of the University Church of Christ, assisted by Mr. A. W. Merrill.

Following a baritone solo, "The City Four Square," Mr. Merrill spoke fittingly and with feeling of Mr. Peterson's incalculable service and the inspiration of his high character. Besides living a life of service in the school room, Mr. Peterson was a tireless worker as Boy Scout leader. "Allan Peterson sacrificed his life for the boys and girls of Des Moines," Mr. Merrill said. "For years he used every ounce of strength he had, and more."

Rev. Medbury offered prayer and read from the Twenty Third Psalm and the fourteenth chapter of John. He emphasized the pronoun throughout the Psalm, and as he made mention of this fact he spoke to Mrs. Peterson and Lawrence, addressing them

directly by name, reading, "The Lord is MY Shepherd . . . He leadeth ME." In reading from John, he mentioned that he placed emphasis on the word prepare, "I go to PREPARE." "The most important thought in this passage, however," Mr. Medbury said, "is in the words 'That where I am there ye may be also.' That good man Allan Peterson believed those words." Here Mr. Medbury turned to the family. "And, Mrs. Peterson and Lawrence, you may have confidence that where Jesus is, 'Allan is with Him.'"

Turning again to the friends, Mr. Medbury continued, "Allan Peterson loved the great truths of the universe, and spent his life studying them, teaching them, and making use of them. Allan's usefulness is not terminated. Allan's life on earth was in order that he might PREPARE. If as some of the astronomers tell us, the starry whiteness in the midnight sky is the brightness of other universes—and mark that I use the plural form of the word, universes—there lies before Allan an unlimited career for investigation and utilization of the great truths which God is expressing in His universes, a career in which to perform unlimited service."

Throughout their hour of trial Mrs. Peterson and Lawrence have had the ministering sympathy of many intimate friends. The Boy Scout Patrol to which Lawrence belongs brought him a huge armful of beautiful flowers to brighten the home, and sent a more formal floral tribute to Dunn's. And other children sent evidences of their childish esteem and thoughtfulness. One near relative was with them a few days, a cousin twice removed, Miss Ada Park of Grinnell.