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Chronicle

Brooklyn, Iowa, Thursday, May 29, 1969

OBITUARIES



MERLIN C. STOKER

Merlin Carl Stoker, son of Charles and Ella Roth Stoker, was born Nov. 16, 1918, in Lincoln township, Poweshiek county, Iowa. He had spent his entire life in this community, where he farmed, and for the last four years had been associated with the Empire Oil Co.

A member of St. John's Lutheran church in Iowa county, he had held numerous church offices and was a member of the board of elders and the school board when the new school building was built in 1954. He had also served as a member of the Guernsey Consolidated school board, following his graduation from that school in 1934.

May 30, 1943, he married Edna Mae Burke. Four daughters were born to the couple. From 1941 to 1945 he served in the U. S. Army, attaining the rank of captain. He received many citations for service, including a silver star, three bronze stars, three purple hearts, the Presidential Unit citation, the combat infantry rifleman's badge and the French Croix de guerre, for exceptional bravery under fire.

He was a member of Morrison-Schrader post of the American Legion at Deep River. Members of the post provided an escort and military rites at funeral services.

Merlin lost his life in a boating accident May 15 at Cameron Lake in Ontario, Canada, where he had gone on a

fishing trip with friends.

Surviving besides his wife are three daughters, Mary Ellen, a nurse in Clear Rapids; Deborah Jean, a student at the University of Northern Iowa at Cedar Falls; and Edyth Ann, a BGM High School student; also his mother, Mrs. Ella Stoker, and a sister, Mrs. Jim (Milfred) Humphrey of Ottumwa; and his grandmother, Mrs. Mary Burke of Victor. He was preceded in death by his father and a daughter, Virginia.

Funeral services were held May 22 at 2 p.m. at St. John's Lutheran church, and burial was in the church cemetery. The Rev. Edmond Weiss officiated. Mrs. Edward Bierbaum was organist.

Casket bearers were Kenneth Schultz, Oscar Cordes, Roy Meyer, Harlan Burke, Virtus Cordes and Melvin Fruendt. In charge of flowers were Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Wille and Mr. and Mrs. Ervin Koehn.

Services Thursday For Merlin Stoker

Funeral services for Merlin Carl Stoker of rural Deep River were conducted by the Rev. Edmond Weiss at St. John's Lutheran Church near Victor on Thursday afternoon, May 22.

Mrs. Edward Bierbaum was the organist. Flower attendants were Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Willie and Mr. and Mrs. Ervin Koehn.

Interment was at the church cemetery. Serving as casket bearers were Kenneth Schultz, Oscar Cordes, Roy Meyer, Harlan Burke, Virtus Cordes and Melvin Freundt. Military rites were by the Morrison-Schrader American Legion Post of Deep River.

Mr. Stoker, 50, died May 15 in a boating accident at Cameron Lake in Ontario, Canada, while on a fishing trip.

The son of Charles and Ella Roth Stoker, he was born Nov. 16, 1918, in Lincoln Township, Poweshiek County, Iowa. On Dec. 15, 1918, he was baptized by the Rev. Otto Kitzman. He received religious instruction and was confirmed in St. John's Lutheran Church. He graduated from Guernsey consolidated school in 1936.

On May 30, 1943, he was married to Edna Mae Burke. To this union four daughters were

born. From 1941 to 1945 he served in the Army and attained the rank of Captain. He received many citations, including the Silver Star, three Bronze Stars, three Purple Hearts, a Presidential Unit Citation, the Combat Infantry Rifleman's Badge and the French Croix DeGuerre for exceptional bravery under fire.

He held numerous church offices and was a member of the Board of Elders at St. John's. He also served as a member of the Guernsey school board and was a member of the American Legion at Deep River.

Mr. Stoker was active in the community where he farmed and was associated with the Empire Oil Co. for the past four years.

Survivors include his wife, Edna Mae; three daughters - Mary Ellen, a nurse in Cedar Rapids; Deborah Jean, a student at the University of Northern Iowa, Cedar Falls; and Edyth Ann, of the home and a student at BGM school. Also, his mother, Mrs. Ella Stoker, and a sister, Mrs. Jim (Mildred) Humphrey, both of Ottumwa; and grandmother, Mrs. Mary Burke of Victor.

He was preceded in death by his father and a daughter, Virginia.

Obituary -

Merlin C. Stoker

Merlin Carl Stoker, son of Charles and Ella Roth Stoker, was born Nov. 16, 1918 in Lincoln township, Poweshiek county, Iowa.

He was baptised Dec. 15, 1918 by the Rev. Otto Kitzman, received religious instruction and was confirmed in St. John's Lutheran church in Lincoln township, Iowa county, Iowa. He received his education in the Guernsey Consolidated school and was graduated with the class of 1936.

He held various offices in the St. John's Lutheran church, was a member of the board of elders and school board at the time the new school building was erected at the church in 1954. He also served as a member of the Guernsey school board.

On May 30, 1943, he was united in marriage to Edna Mae Burke. To this union four daughters were born. From 1941 to 1945 he served in the United States Army during World War II. In four years he attained the rank of captain. He was awarded many citations for his service, including a silver star, three bronze stars, three purple hearts, the presidential unit citation, the combat infantry rifleman badge and the French Croix de Guerre for exceptional bravery under fire.

Merlin was a member of the American Legion Morrison-Schrader Post 296 of Deep River. He was a life-long member of the community where he farmed and for the last four years was associated with the Empire Oil company. At the time of his death he was an operator of Star Inn on Interstate 80 north of Deep River.

Death came May 15 by drowning in Cameron Lake, Ontario, Canada, where he was fishing with friends. He was 50 years old, five months and 29 days.

He leaves to mourn his passing his wife, Edna Mae, three daughters, Mary Ellen, a nurse in Cedar Rapids; Deborah Jean, a student in Cedar Falls, and Edyth Ann, a student at Brooklyn-Guernsey-Malcom school; his mother, Mrs. Ella Stoker, and a sister, Mrs. Jim (Mildred) Humphrey of Ottumwa, and grandmother, Mrs. Mary Burke of Victor, and other relatives and many friends.

He was preceded in death by his father, Charles Stoker, and one daughter, Virginia.

Funeral service was held May 22 at 2 p.m. at the St. John's Lutheran church with the Rev. Edmond Weiss officiating. Two hymns by the congregation were "What a Friend We Have in Jesus" and "Rock of Ages," with Mrs. Edward Bierbaum, organist in charge of flowers were Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Willie and Mr. and Mrs. Ervin Koehn.

Casket bearers were Kenneth Schultz, Oscar Cordes, Roy Meyer, Harlan Burke, Virtus Cordes, Melvin Freundt. Military escort and grave-side rites were provided by American Legion Morrison-Schrader Post 296 of Deep River. The flag from the Federal government was presented to Mrs. Stoker by Legionnaires George Dale and J. R. Bruns of Deep River. Burial was in the St. John's church cemetery, Lincoln township, Iowa county.