

GRINNELL HERALD REGISTER

May 2, 1946

Obituary

Margaret Louise Jantzen
Margaret Louise Jantzen, eldest daughter of Charles Earl and Mary Louisa Parkhurst, was born Sept. 3, 1912, in Lacey, Iowa, and departed this life on

April 20, at the age of 33 years, seven months and 23 days.

She received her education in the school at Lacey and the high school at Toledo, Iowa.

On September 20, 1941, she was united in marriage to Wilbur Jantzen and strove very hard to make a success of her married life.

Being of a naturally pleasant and affectionate disposition she loved her friends and family intensely and whole heartedly.

She leaves to mourn her loss, her two young sons, Larry and Donald by a former marriage, her father and mother, two brothers, Arthur and Willard Parkhurst, two sisters, Mrs. Rosenberg and Mary Gertrude Grosenbach and their families of Grinnell, her grandmother, Mrs. Louisa Sullivan and uncle and aunt, Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Talbert of Grinnell, a number of other relatives and a host of friends. She will be greatly missed.

Funeral services will be held at 2 p. m. Monday, May 6, at the Grinnell Methodist church. Burial will be in Grinnell cemetery.

Grinnell Herald - Register

A NEWSPAPER FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

SEVENTY-NINTH YEAR.

GRINNELL, POWESHIEK COUNTY, IOWA, MONDAY, APRIL 29, 1946

NO. 9

Man and Wife Dead In Shooting Tragedy

Poweshiek County Couple Killed In Double Shooting



MR. AND MRS. WILBUR C. JANTZEN



Farm Couple Found By Her Sister

Rites Held Sunday For Wilbur Jantzen; Services Today For Mrs. Jantzen

Wilbur C. Jantzen, 32, Poweshiek county farmer and World war II veteran, Friday noon shot and killed his wife, age 33, with a shotgun and then turned the gun on himself in the kitchen of their farm home seven miles north of Grinnell in the Chester community.

Coroner W. B. Phillips viewed the bodies and pronounced the tragedy a case of murder and suicide. No inquest will be held. Mrs. Jantzen was shot through the right chest and Jantzen was shot through the heart, both wounds being made with a 12 gauge single barreled shot gun.

Her Sister Found Them

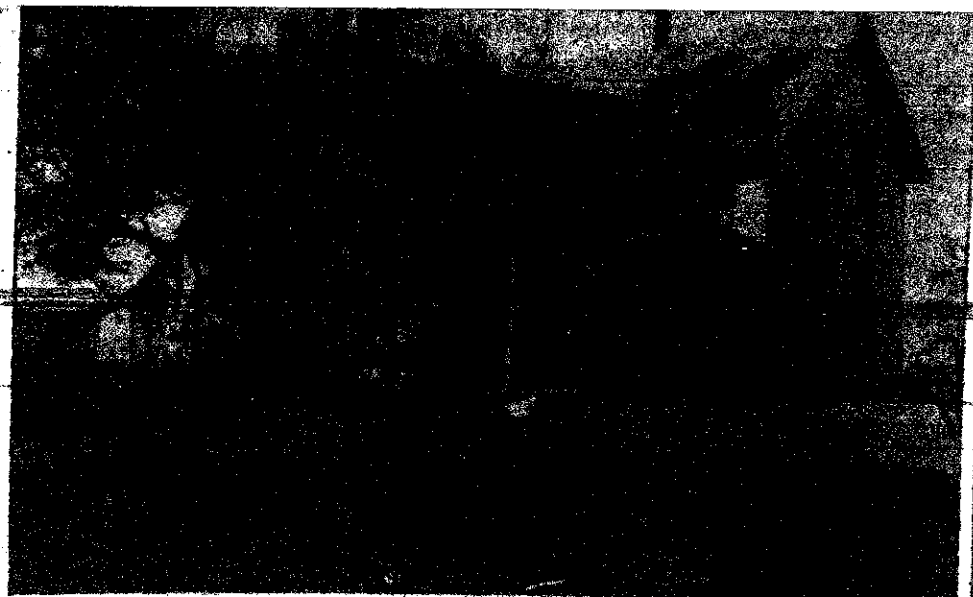
The murder and suicide was not discovered until about 2:30 o'clock Friday afternoon by Mrs. Jantzen's sister, Mrs. Gerald Grosenback of near Grinnell. She had driven out to the Jantzen home to spend the afternoon, having been invited by Mrs. Jantzen that morning.

Details of what happened just prior to the shooting probably will never be known, since there were not witnesses, but it is known that the couple had not been getting on well together of late and that Mrs. Jantzen had a divorce suit pending against her husband in Poweshiek county district court.

Two Children

They were married Sept. 29, 1942, and had no children by this marriage. Mrs. Jantzen's two sons, Larry Sedrel, 8, and Donald Sedrel, 5, by a previous marriage, were in school at Gilman when the shooting occurred. Her former husband Verlin Sedrel, remarried and resides in Cedar Rapids.

Mr. and Mrs. Jantzen had been in Grinnell Friday morning.



Herald-Register Photo

Shown above is the farm home seven miles north of Grinnell where Mr. and Mrs. Jantzen and her two sons resided prior to a tragic shooting Friday noon when Mr. Jantzen shot and killed his wife and then turned the shotgun on himself.

two sons, Larry Sedrel, 8, and Donald Sedrel, 9, by a previous marriage, were in school at Gilman when the shooting occurred. Her former husband Verlin Sedrel, remarried and resides in Cedar Rapids.

Mr. and Mrs. Jantzen had been in Grinnell Friday morning, according to Sheriff Frank Schran, and had called at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Earl Parkhurst of 419 East street. Apparently there was no sign of friction at that time.

Neighbors Saw Them

Later on in the morning, at about 11:30, several of the neighbors along the road to their farm saw them drive by. Mrs. Jantzen is believed to have been starting to prepare lunch when she was shot. A cupboard was open and a loaf of bread was lying on the kitchen table, but the table had not yet been set. There was no sign of a struggle in the house and nothing appeared to have been disturbed. Mr. and Mrs. Jantzen were in their work clothes and he was wearing his work cap, as if he had just come in from outdoors.

Neighbors said Saturday morning that Mr. Jantzen was an energetic farmer and that he had his spring plowing done and most of the crops in. Nearby friends are taking care of the chores on the farm pending a decision as to what will be done with the farm.

Wilbur Jantzen Funeral Sunday

Funeral services for Mr. Jantzen were held from the James funeral home in Grinnell Sunday afternoon at 2:30 and interment was made in the Sheridan cemetery. Rev. F. A. Moore was in charge of the final rites. Pallbearers were John Allen, Delmar Puls, Louis Puls, Paul Erickson, Elmer Luttman and Clayton Dimit.

Services For Mrs. Jantzen

Funeral services for Mrs. Jantzen were held at the James funeral home this morning at 10 o'clock and burial was made in the Forest cemetery at Okaloosa. Rev. D. E. Skiles was in charge of the final rites and pallbearers were Walter Barnes, Harold Starnes, Adolph Krumm, Arthur Grosenbach, Gene Steaker and Arthur Strubber.