

[Cagle, Willis Delbert]

Willis D. Cagle Second Drowning Victim at Lake
Was Fishing With Wife's Brother-in-law and Went
Swimming From Boat; Veteran of World War II

Silver Lake claimed its second victim of the season late Saturday afternoon when Willis D. Cagle, 35, was drowned when he entered the water from a boat in which he had been fishing. Cagle was fishing with his wife's brother-in-law, Elbert H. Thompson, in the latter's motor boat at the time of the accident.

Thompson this week said he and Cagle went fishing about 2 p.m. Saturday afternoon. They were having poor luck in cruising up the lake, stopping several times to fish. During the lull they discussed the annual family reunion held in Missouri every year on July 4th and which both families planned to attend this year.

The conversation centered around fishing and swimming in the Mississippi. The day was warm and suddenly Cagle peeled off a sweat shirt and declared, "I guess it's about time for a swim." With that he dived into the water.

Thompson was startled at his companion's action because he still had his pants, shoes and a T-shirt on and the boat was moving. He waited for Cagle to surface and when he failed to appear Thompson circled around trying to locate him in the water. When these attempts were futile he headed for shore and landed at Mack's boat livery where he described the accident.

The Perry police and Castile state police and sheriff's office were notified and responded to the call. Thompson directed the rescuers to the spot where Cagle, who was described as an excellent swimmer, dived into the lake.

When police could not locate the body immediately the Perry Fire Company was summoned and about 20 firemen responded to the call to drag the lake. The accident occurred at 5:15 p.m. and the body was finally located by State Trooper William Ahrens of Castile at about 3 a.m. in about 15 feet of water.

Coroner Dr. M.E. Waldron was called and an autopsy was performed to discover the cause of the drowning and a death certificate of accidental drowning was issued. Dr. Waldron and Dr. Bruno J. Tryka, who assisted, declared that Cagle's stomach was full of food and he apparently had eaten just before entering the water which is a dangerous procedure.

The deceased was a veteran of World War II, having been drafted from Perry. He served three years in the army, 18 months of which he spent overseas mostly in Germany. He was a member of the Perry Post V.F.W. who conducted military rites at his funeral.

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Cagle, with his wife the former Frances Kent who survives, came to Perry from Webb City, Missouri about 12 years ago. He was employed as a finisher in the Robeson Cutlery Co. plant. Mrs. Cagle is employed at the Duracraft Co. plant here. They resided at 14 Watkins Ave.

Funeral services were held from the Eaton Funeral Home on Tuesday morning with interment in the Glenwood Cemetery. The service was in charge of Rev. Warren Brigham, pastor of the Universalist Church of which the deceased was a member.

In addition to his wife he is survived by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Lemuel James Cagle of Rector, Arkansas, who came here for the burial.

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