

[Coutu, Vernon]

Killed at Canajoharie

CANAJOHARIE, Sept. 3—A verdict of accidental death was rendered by Dr. Raymond E. Wyrwal, Montgomery County coroner, in the death of Vernon Coutu, 30, of 65 Douglas Street, Fort Plain, who was killed by a fall of 40 feet down an elevator shaft at the Beech-Nut Packing Co.'s plant here Saturday. Death was due to a broken neck. Coutu, a war veteran, was employed as a laboratory chemist by the firm.

The accident occurred when Coutu opened an elevator door and attempted to bring the elevator down from the floor above.

Coutu came to this village in October 1940 as a chemist for the Beech-Nut Co. With his wife he resided at an apartment in the Allo Quackenbush home until March 1942 when they moved to Fort Plain.

A captain in the Quartermaster Corps during the war, Coutu entered the army in December 1942 and served overseas in the Pacific. Following his discharge from the Army last May, he resumed his position with the local firm.

Coutu was born in Orange, Mass., May 3, 1916, the son of Edward J. and Vera Kent Coutu. He held a Master's degree in chemistry from Massachusetts State College, was a member of the Universalist Church, Orange, Mass., belonged to the Musicians' Association of Western Massachusetts, and was a member of Fort Plain Post. V.F.W.

He is survived by his wife, the former Flora Felton; a four-year-old son, Vernon, Jr.; his parents of Erwing; two sisters, Mrs. John Marshall of Orange, and Mrs. Howard Parsely, of Erwing; and his grandmother, Mrs. Minnie Coutu, also of Erwing.

Funeral services were held yesterday afternoon at the Thompson funeral home, Miller's Falls, Mass. Interment was at Highland Cemetery.

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