

James Lobbs, Aged 60, Hamburger King Of Village, Expires Stroke Fatal Early Friday; Funeral Services Held Here Sunday

Striking suddenly and unexpectedly, death claimed James Lobbs, aged about 60, well known and prominent Monticello businessman for many years, at about, 2:30 Friday morning in Mercy hospitals Janesville.

Mr. Lobbs, whose health had failed somewhat in recent years, although not seriously, was reported to have suffered a stroke while driving his car on the streets of Janesville at about 10:30 Thursday night. He was taken to the hospital, where he never regained consciousness. Mr. Lobbs motored to Janesville Thursday afternoon, accompanied by Gerrit Kooreman, also of Monticello. When Mr. Lobbs failed to appear at an arranged meeting place, Mr. Kooreman began a search for his friend but was unable to locate him. He returned to Monticello with a friend and only then learned of the death of Mr. Lobbs.

Native of Greece

"Jimmie," as he was familiarly referred to by his many friends both here and elsewhere, was born in Greece. He came to America in 1905, landing in New Orleans. A year later he came to Monticello. After his arrival here he spent two years working with a railroad section crew. For the next three years he was employed with a county road gang.

In 1911, Mr. Lobbs purchased a shoe repair shop from the late David Klassy. He added a small confectionery department and soon gave up the cobbling trade entirely, giving all of his attention to making hamburgers, etc., for which he became famous throughout the entire southern part of the state.

"Jimmie" recalled that 27 competitors came and went during the years in which he was in business here. As much a part of the village as his Midway lunchroom, Mr. Lobbs became very prosperous in his chosen trade after a meager beginning under difficult circumstances.

The original Midway was moved a number of years ago and in its place Mr. Lobbs erected a modern sandwich shop. He had been on the retired list more or less since 1945 and in the past year the Midway was operated, by partners, active management now being in the hands of Mr. and Mrs. Max Schuett.

Enjoyed Conversation

Although he "murdered" the English language, "Jimmie" enjoyed conversation and the Midway never saw a dull moment while he was present. His place became the stopping center for countless numbers of friends and his many acquaintances always made it a point to stop in as they passed through the village. Mr. Lobbs possessed the rare faculty of being able to absorb jests and jibes which were directed at him with a good natured dignity and it was often said that he actually enjoyed being the target for jokes. immensely.

Part of the Monticello swimming pool is on property donated to the village by Mr. Lobbs.

Mr. Lobbs, whose establishment was always a credit to the Monticello business circle, had no known relatives in this country.

Funeral Sunday

Funeral services were held at 2 Sunday afternoon in the Voegeli funeral home here. The Rev. A. R. Achtemeier, pastor of the Zwingli Evangelical and Reformed church, officiated, and burial was in Highland cemetery. Pallbearers were: Max Schuett, L. R. Pease, Gerrit Kooreman, and Joseph Legler, Monticello, Kenneth Schmid, Monroe, and Warren Murphy, Brainerd, Minn.