

Donna Jean Voegeli
April, 1946 – August 1948

Donna Jean Voegeli Victim of Leukemia; Rites on Wednesday
Rites Held Wednesday for Little Girl; Victim Sank Rapidly

Keeping a day and night vigil beside a tiny bed in a Madison hospital, Mr. and Mrs. Donald J. Voegeli saw their 2-year-old daughter, Donna Jean, die Monday afternoon, the victim of lymphatic leukemia, a rare blood disease.

Doctors at first thought the little girl would live about two months and her grieving parents planned an early Christmas for her. She was stricken about 2 1/2 weeks ago. She was taken to a hospital where blood transfusions and a new drug were administered in an attempt to prolong her life.

Sinks Rapidly

Plans were made for an early Christmas party for Donna Jean but the party was never held because the little girl began to fail rapidly.

Every day was Christmas for Donna Jean, however. Despite her fright when doctors gave her blood transfusions, she still smiled "like a doll" at the sight of new "Christmas presents" which came to the still, white hospital room in great numbers.

Golden-haired Donna Jean was pale and had a few dark spots which looked like bruises on her arm. At grandmother's suggestion, Mrs. Voegeli took the child to the family doctor.

That's when the tragic news was learned. The doctor said Donna Jean had been suffering from leukemia for about eight or 10 days.

The father, Donald J. Voegeli, son of Mr. and Mrs. Joe J. Voegeli, Monticello, gave up his work as a University of Wisconsin music instructor, music director of university radio station WHA and a night club band leader to be with his daughter every minute possible during her 12-day stay in the hospital "The mother also remained with her constantly, trying desperately to bring the sparkle back to her little girl's blue eyes.

Donna Jean was born in April, 1946, in Madison.

Survivors are the parents; a brother, Bobby, four months; her maternal grandmother, Mrs. Harry Lapple, Mazomanie; and her paternal grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Joe J. Voegeli, Monticello.

Funeral services were held at 3 p. m Wednesday in the First Congregational church chapel, Madison, with the Rev. Richard S. Anthems officiating. Burial was in Forest Hill cemetery, Madison.