

Fred W. Voegeli, Aged 44, Expires After Brief Illness
Well Known Business Man Summoned; Rites Friday
May 5, 1895 - May 1, 1940

Striking with a lightning-like suddenness which stunned the entire community and plunged it into sadness, death claimed Fred W. Voegeli, 44 year of age, widely known and highly regarded Monticello funeral director, at 1:30 a. m. Wednesday in his home here on Monroe street.

Mr. Voegeli's unexpected death came as a staggering shock to members of the immediate family, the large relationship, and myriad of friends because he had apparently regained his usual good health after having been quite seriously ill for two weeks in March. At that time he entered a Monroe hospital suffering from influenza and complications, remaining there for eleven days until March 25th when he had sufficiently recovered to be able to return home. Since then he had gradually recaptured his strength until he seemed no worse for his recent illness.

Apparently Feeling Well

On Tuesday, Mr. Voegeli had sodded down part of his terrace at the family home and had gone to the post office in the morning and afternoon after the mail, exchanging his familiar, cheerful greetings with fellow citizens along the way. In the evening, he had gone down town to see about repairs for his truck, returning home about 9 o'clock in his usual jovial spirits.

After retiring for the night, Mr. Voegeli arose about 1 a.m. and went to the bathroom, returning in a few minutes. A short time later, he casually remarked to Mrs. Voegeli that he was restless and unable to get to sleep. Shortly before 1:30 she heard him gasp twice for breath. Quickly turning on the bed-lamp Mrs. Voegeli found that her husband had just breathed his last.

Pleasing Disposition

The sudden passing of Mr. Voegeli removes from our midst a robust, refreshing individual, whose buoyant good nature and understanding disposition will be greatly missed during these times of stress when such treasured qualities are at a premium in this trouble-torn world. Whatever his own troubles might have been, he always hid them under a broad smile and sunny greetings and conversations as he sought to spread cheer and happiness among fellow townspeople. He valued his friendships highly. The feeling of genuine neighborliness which he had for all of his friends was not built upon the sands of sham and hypocrisy; it was erected on the firm foundations of faith and sincerity.

Along with his sincere and magnetic friendliness, Mr. Voegeli was blessed with an unusual sense of humor. Unlike many other individuals, he had the happy faculty of being able to laugh just as heartily at jokes aimed at himself as he did at his own jests on his friends. Beneath his robust disposition was a big heart from which the virtues of kindness, generosity, and consideration and concern for others flowed in abundance — exemplary qualities which will make Mr. Voegeli long remembered, especially in those many families where his professional services have been required during the past two decades.

These characteristics, coupled with the exceptional pride he took in seeing that the duties of his professional capacities were discharged with fitting efficiency, won Mr. Voegeli the deserved reputation of being one of the most skilled embalmers and funeral directors in

southern Wisconsin. During his career, he had presided at hundreds of funerals here and in surrounding villages.

Washington Native

Fred Will Voegeli, son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Voegeli, Sr., was born May 5, 1895, on the Voegeli homestead farm in Washington township, a few miles northwest of Monticello, where the Voegeli herd of pure bred Brown Swiss cattle has become famous throughout the entire nation. His mother's name was Verena Freitag and her home was originally in New Glarus.

Mr. Voegeli was baptized Nov. 10, 1895, by the late Rev. J. Etter, New Glarus. He was confirmed in the Zwingli Reformed church in this village on April 9, 1911 by Rev. A. Muehlmeier, now living in retirement here. He attended the Voegeli district rural school which is only a short distance from the family farm.

In January, 1919, Mr. Voegeli purchased the furniture and undertaking business in Monticello from Fred Gerber, since deceased, who remained with him throughout the year to familiarize him with all phases of the business and during the several months in 1920 when Mr. Voegeli was in Milwaukee as a student at Marquette university where he studied embalming. On May 22, 1919, he was united in marriage to Miss Elfa Streiff, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Peter S. Streiff, New Glarus. The late Rev. G. D. Elliker, of that village and later of Waukon, Iowa, presided at the ceremony. To this union, on June 23, 1921, was born a son, Frederick S., who was graduated from the Monticello high school with the class of 1939. Immediately following his graduation, Frederick began and has been continuing his apprenticeship in embalming under the direction of his father.

During the month of December, 1938, Mr. Voegeli disposed of his furniture store to the M. E. Lynn Hardware company, retaining his practice in embalming and funeral directing in rooms in the family residence which had been especially remodeled for those purposes.

A lover of the out-of-doors, Mr. Voegeli was particularly fond of hunting and fishing, recreations which first gripped his interest when he was a youngster on the family homestead. Another of his pastimes was poultry breeding, a hobby which he pursued for ten years, from 1922 until 1932, when he was a partner with Wilbert J. Dick in the Quality Hatchery and the Hilltop Poultry Farm. In the latter year, he disposed of his interest to Mr. Dick, who has since conducted the business.

Mr. Voegeli was a member of the Zwingli Reformed and Evangelical church, the Monticello Commercial club, and the Monticello Fire department. He was especially interested and active in the latter organization.

Survivors are the widow and son, Frederick; one sister, Mrs. Fred Wild, Belleville, and three brothers, John, Lodi, and Joe J. and Jacob, both of Monticello. He was preceded in death by his mother, who died in June of 1923; his father, who passed away in January of 1926; a sister, Mrs. Henry Duerst, Monticello, who died March 15, 1937; a twin brother, Walter, whose death occurred March 18, 1939, and two brothers, who died in infancy.

Funeral services will be conducted at 2 p. m. Friday in the Zwingli Reformed and Evangelical church in Monticello. At 12 o'clock Friday noon, the body will be taken to the church to lie in state until the services. Up to that time, the remains will be at the Voegeli funeral home where they may be viewed by relatives and friends.

Rev. A. R. Achtemeier will preside at the church services and interment will be in Highland Cemetery. Pallbearers will be: J. W. Barlow, W. A. Loveland, W. Dick, all of Monticello; Herman Schindler, Monroe; Martin Rech, Freeport, and Guy D. Howardth, Rockford.