

NICKEL, HENRY
?-August 24, 1924

Henry Nickel was drowned Sunday afternoon while swimming with three companions in the large Pathfinder irrigation canal, having been seized with cramps while in nine feet of water.

Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Nickel, their family, and John Stamm had motored Sunday to Lingle to attend German services. They met with so much tire trouble on the way that they were unable to reach Lingle in time for the services, and drove instead to the Schell farm about eight miles southeast of Lingle, where they ate dinner about 2 p.m.

Henry Nickel, John Stamm, Jacob Andrus and Fred Andrus, the latter two employed at the Schell farm, went out to the barn immediately after dinner, and a swimming party was proposed. They went to the government ditch, Nickel being the first to enter the water. He swam along the bank a short distance until Stamm dived in and swam across, when he started to follow him. When part way across, he was seized with cramps and called for help.

Stamm went to his rescue, grabbing him by his hair, and starting to swim with the current. Nickel was struggling in the water, however, and grasped hold of Stamm's foot, dragging him under. Stamm was able to shake loose, and returned to his aid again, when he was dragged under a second time and nearly drowned before he made his escape.

Nickel was drowned about 3 p.m. Sunday, and his body found about 2 p.m. Monday by a Torrington man.

The body was brought to Wheatland Tuesday evening, and the funeral was held 2 p.m. Wednesday from the Methodist church, the burial taking place in the Wheatland cemetery.

A peculiar feature of the accident was the fact that it occurred exactly three years, lacking one day, from the death of his brother, Carl Nickel, who was killed in a mowing machine accident.

An older brother, Jacob Nickel, lives in California, and an older sister in Casper, in addition to the members of the family living here.

Henry Nickel was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Nickel who live on the former W.D. Stoll farm adjoining that of Grover Epperly. He was 16 years, 8 months, and 24 days of age at the time of his death.