

## VANWART, MAYNARD ALVIN

April 20, 1911-August 6 1939

The body of Maynard VanWart, 29 year-old Cheyenne resident, was recovered from the Guernsey lake early Thursday morning at about 5:30 o'clock after it had sunk below the surface while he was swimming a cove Sunday. The body was found by H. Jensen, mess sergeant, at the side camp at Guernsey, and was floating on the surface of the lake when discovered.

The extensive search was started Sunday afternoon after Mr. VanWart drowned while attempting to swim the cove about three-quarters of a mile above the dam. Witnesses said VanWart started across the cove and was progressing with rapid strokes when he suddenly yelled for help. He had crossed two-thirds of the distance to the opposite shore when he suddenly disappeared below the surface and failed to reappear. He had recently been seriously ill from a case of blood poisoning in his arm. His body lay in about 50 feet of water during the four days in which several unsuccessful attempts were made to recover it.

Sheriff Bill Sutherland and county coroner C. Stewart Dennis of Wheatland were notified of the accident Sunday and immediately went to the scene where operations were started with a boat and grappling equipment secured from Cheyenne to retrieve the body. Frank Occhipinti of Cheyenne was also summoned to the scene Sunday night with his diving equipment, but was forced to abandon his attempts because of limited equipment. Stumps and rocks on the uneven lake bottom made grappling and diving operations difficult. On Tuesday morning, the aid of Charles DeVore, chief of the rescue division of the Colorado Fuel & Iron company at Pueblo, was summoned. He, together with an experienced deep-water diver, Carl Ruminer and helper, O.J. Meek, arrived on the scene and made unsuccessful attempts to rescue the body of the victim.

Sheriff George Carroll of Cheyenne, together with the deputy sheriff E.D. Brown, and Special Agent Z.D. Fitch, also of Cheyenne, remained at the scene until Monday giving their assistance.

The CCC boys and their commander Charles Lundy were highly praised by Sheriff Sutherland and other officials for their unflinching assistance during the search. Sutherland stated that wonderful cooperation was given the officers by everyone including the Guernsey residents, Mr. Wright of the Sunrise Mines, the officials at the Guernsey dam, Henry VanHeukelom and many others. Mr. VanHuekelom furnished his motor boat and equipment used for dragging the cove. Lewis Krumendahl, who has charge of the National Guard commissary at Guernsey, also gave his undivided assistance during the four-day search. Fire Chief Ed Taylor of Cheyenne sent the department's equipment and grappling hooks to the scene Sunday afternoon.

The body was removed to the Watson and Dennis Chapel and burial was made in the local cemetery at 4 o'clock this afternoon (Thursday). Short services were held at the grave.

Maynard VanWart was an employee of the Cheyenne Pacific Union shop and resided at 522 W. 17<sup>th</sup> St. Surviving are his widow, the former Vera Powell of Sunrise, two children by a former marriage; three brothers, Bernard, a twin of Omaha, Nebraska; Travis and Horatio, both of Cheyenne and his father, H.C. VanWart, agent for the Union Pacific at Grandy, Nebraska.