

Akron Beacon Journal - February 11, 1933

Survivor Tells Tragic Story Of Seeing Companion Drown In Icy Waters Of East Reservoir After Skating Accident

Photos on Page 14.

WE HUNG in the water with our elbows on the ice. The moon was just beginning to come up, and it was still very dark. It was so bitterly cold we both wanted to die, just to end the torture of freezing."

"Cletus yelled, 'Help,' twice, but we knew it was no use, we were utterly alone on the ice. He struggled. I don't think he was frightened, but I believe he knew he was going to die. At last I managed to crawl on a piece of ice that would hold me. When I looked back, the moon had come up enough so that I could see Cletus sinking, silently.

"Just Black Water, And He Was Gone"

"In a minute, there was just black water, a little ripple, and he was gone."

W. R. Barton, survivor of the accident which took the life of Cletus Wagner, 25, 1020 Whittier av. Friday night on East reservoir, Portage Lakes, sat in his office at the B. F. Goodrich Co. Saturday morning, and told the story of the tragedy.

"Wagner had come out to visit me at my cottage at Snake Head point. We bundled up in layers and layers of sweaters and started to skate from the Point to Wagner's landing. We skirted the island on the left, shore side, instead of going around it. It was about 8

p. m. Cletus was ahead. I saw his hands go up, and then disappear. I was skating so rapidly I slid into the hole, too."

"You've no idea," said Barton, precisely, wiping his glasses in nervousness, "of how cold, and lonely, and dark it was, just hanging there on the ice."

Resuscitation Efforts Meet With Failure

After Barton had managed to crawl back on the ice, numb from cold, he skated across the lake to call for help. The Coventry fire department answered the call with seven volunteer firemen. They department answered the call with seven volunteer firemen.

Volunteer Fireman Paul Scherbarth ran across the ice but it broke under him, near the place where Wagner went down. Then a boat was pushed across the ice, picked up Scherbarth, and the firemen searched for the body of the drowned man with grappling hooks. It was brought up in a few minutes.

Although the firemen and Barton worked over Wagner's body for nearly an hour, they were unable to revive him. He was dead when Dr. H. A. Briscoe, 1213 Brown st., arrived.

Wagner, who was a clerk at the offices of Ettinger and Brand, brokers, is survived by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Philip Wagner, two brothers, Philip, Jr., and Paul, and a sister, Mrs. Celina Delagrang.

Funeral services for Wagner will be held Monday at 9:15 a. m. at St. Sebastian church. Burial will be at St. Bernard cemetery.

WAGNER—Cletus, age 25 years, 1020 Whittier av., died Friday evening. He is survived by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Philip Wagner; 2 brothers, Philip, Jr. and Paul, and 1 sister, Mrs. Celina Delagrang, all of Akron. He was an employe of Ettinger & Brand. Funeral services Monday 9:15 a. m. at St. Sebastian church. Burial St. Bernard's cemetery. (Hummel & Co.)

Wagner, Cletus P 1908 - 1933

STATE OF OHIO
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
DIVISION OF VITAL STATISTICS
CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

1 PLACE OF DEATH
County Summit Registration District No. 1224 File No. 12288
Township Coventry Primary Registration District No. 5871 Registered No. 202
or Village East Reservoir No. East Reservoir St. Ward
or City of (If death occurred in a hospital or institution, give its NAME instead of street and number)

Length of residence in city or town where death occurred: yrs. mos. ds. How long in U. S., if of foreign birth? yrs. mos. ds.

2 FULL NAME Cletus Wagner Did Deceased Serve in U. S. Navy or Army
(a) Residence. No. 1020 Whittier St. Ward
(Usual place of abode) (If nonresident give city or town and State)

PERSONAL AND STATISTICAL PARTICULARS					MEDICAL CERTIFICATE OF DEATH	
3. SEX <u>Male</u>	4. COLOR OR RACE <u>white</u>	5. Single, Married, Widowed, or Divorced (write the word) <u>Single</u>			21. DATE OF DEATH (month, day, and year) <u>Feb 16, 1933</u>	
5a. If married, widowed, or divorced HUSBAND of (or) WIFE of <u> </u>					22. I HEREBY CERTIFY, That I attended deceased from <u> </u> , 19 <u> </u> , to <u> </u> , 19 <u> </u> , I last saw h. <u> </u> alive on <u> </u> , 19 <u> </u> , death is said to have occurred on the date stated above at <u> </u> m.	
6. DATE OF BIRTH (month, day, and year) <u>Mar. 31, 1908</u>					The PRINCIPAL CAUSE OF DEATH and related causes of importance in order of onset were as follows: <u>Accidental Drowning</u> <u>183</u>	
7. AGE		11. Total time (years) spent in this occupation				
Years <u>24</u>	Months <u>10</u>	Days <u>9</u>	If LESS than 1 day, <u> </u> hrs. or <u> </u> min.		CONTRIBUTORY CAUSES of importance not related to principal cause: <u> </u>	
8. Trade, profession, or particular kind of work done, as <u>clerk</u> , spinner, sawyer, bookkeeper, etc.						
9. Industry or business in which work was done, as <u>Stock brokers</u> , silk mill, saw mill, bank, etc.					Name of operation <u> </u> Date of <u> </u> What test confirmed diagnosis? <u>history</u> Was there an autopsy? <u>yes</u>	
10. Date deceased last worked at this occupation (month and year) <u>Mar 13</u>						
12. BIRTHPLACE (city or town) <u>Akron</u> (State or country) <u>Ohio</u>					23. If death was due to external causes (violence) fill in also the following: Accident, suicide, or homicide? <u>Accident</u> Date of injury <u> </u> , 19 <u> </u> Where did injury occur? <u>County - Summit Ohio</u> (Specify city or town, county, and State) Specify whether injury occurred in industry, in home, or in public place.	
13. NAME <u>Philip Wagner</u>					Manner of injury <u>Broken from Ice while skating</u> Nature of injury <u> </u>	
14. BIRTHPLACE (city or town) <u>Germany</u> (State or country) <u> </u>					24. Was disease or injury in any way related to occupation of deceased? <u>no</u> If so, specify <u> </u>	
15. MAIDEN NAME <u>Anna Schaefer</u>					If signed <u> </u> M. D. (Signed) <u> </u> M. D. Date <u>Feb 11, 1933</u> Address <u>59 W. Broadway Akron</u>	
16. BIRTHPLACE (city or town) <u>Ohio</u> (State or country) <u> </u>						
17. The Signature of Informant <u>Philip Wagner</u> and (Address) <u>1020 Whittier Ave.</u>						
18. BURIAL, CREMATION, OR REMOVAL Place <u>St. Bernard's</u> Date <u>Feb. 13, 1933</u>						
19. UNDERTAKER <u>Hummel & Co. Inc. 36 20th</u> (Address) <u>see Hummel & Co. Inc. 36 20th</u>						
19a. Was body embalmed? <u>yes</u> Embalmer's No. <u> </u>						
20. FILED <u>2-17</u> , 19 <u>33</u> Registrar <u> </u> Date <u>Feb 11, 1933</u> Address <u> </u>						

OCCUPATION is very important. See instructions on back of certificate.