

The Sentinel Leader

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SPARTA, MICHIGAN

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Number 23

Fatal Air Crash Claims Don Ives and Don Brown

The first impact of tragedy and loss has now given way to sorrow among members of the families of Donald Ives and Donnie Mack Brown who met untimely deaths early Tuesday morning last week when their plane crashed in a wooded area five miles east of South Haven.

They were returning to Sparta following a four-day business trip to Texas and St. Louis, Mo., for the firm, Spartan Extrusion Tool and Die Company, of which Mr. Ives was president and Mr. Brown plant superintendent.



Don Ives

Death always is hard regardless of the ages or circumstances surrounding the persons involved. However, in the case of Mr. Ives, 39, and Mr. Brown, 31, the loss is felt by family, friends as well as 23 employees of Spartan Extrusion Tool and Die and the whole community which can't help but in some way measure the void created by their deaths.

The pair left Friday morning and were last heard from at 10:40 p.m. Monday when Mr. Ives called his wife from St. Louis asking that she arrange to have the landing lights put on at the Sparta Airport. Mr. Ives said that he expected to be home in about two and one-half hours.

The airport at South Bend, Ind., reported that it had been contacted by Mr. Ives at 12:41 a.m. Tuesday when he requested weather and traffic conditions at the Kent County Airport in Grand Rapids. The crash occurred shortly after this, as a clock inside the plane stopped running at 12:54.

Representatives of the Federal Aviation Agency examining the wreckage have not yet reported on the cause of the crash. Dr. John Kleber, coroner, said multiple injuries in each case caused death.

Mr. Ives, a licensed pilot for

seven years, was flying Meyers 200 four-passenger aircraft. He was the owner of the plane.

A native of Grand Rapids, Mr. Ives moved with his family to Sparta 12 years ago after he started Spartan Extrusion Tool and Die Company in a building located on N. State St. just west of William A. Rogers Park. He moved his growing company to its present location on S. Union St., in September of 1956.

As the firm grew through the years, Mr. Ives continued to develop new accounts across the nation on the basis of his vast experience and ability as a tool maker as well as prompt delivery of orders with his airplane. He often used property he owned extending south from his plant as an airstrip to land the aircraft.

The plane which carried the pair to their deaths had only recently been purchased. Mr. Brown had recently started to take flying lessons.

Mr. Ives served in the Navy during World War II and was a member of the Lekstrum-Burnett American Legion Post in Sparta.

Survivors include his wife, Eleanor; two sons, Daniel and Phillip; a daughter, Mary Anne; his mother Mrs. Mabel Ives and a brother, Gordon, both of Grand Rapids, and a sister, Mrs. Rupert Wright of Newaygo.

Services were held Friday morning in the Hessel Funeral Home. The Rt. Rev. Msgr. Joseph C. Walen officiated. Burial was at Greenwood Cemetery.

Don Brown Was From Greenville

Donnie Mack Brown was born in Greenville on January 23, 1932. He was a graduate of Greenville High School and attended Eastern Michigan University in Ypsilanti where he majored in engineering.

Mr. Brown joined Spartan Extrusion Tool and Die in January, 1961. He was plant superintendent.

In 1955 he was married to the former Miss Joann Byrne of Belvidere. The couple had three children who also survive. They are Anthony Mark, 5; Roxanne Rae, 22 months, and Eric Duncan, seven months.

Mr. Ives, a licensed pilot for



Gordon Plescher of 12501 Phelps Ave. (left) a cupola tender at the Muskegon Piston Ring Company, is shown as Allan Witbeck, Sparta Division Personnel Director, awards him a check as part of the company's suggestion program. Mr. Plescher received a total of \$226.20 for a suggestion which resulted in a \$2300 savings by the company through the installation of a simple automatic cooling control for cupolas. This is the second largest award presented to a Muskegon Piston Ring employee since the suggestion program was initiated two years ago.

RICHARD SIEGEL'S

FATHER EXPIRES

Michael Siegel, 75, of Comstock Park, father of Richard Siegel of Long Lake Drive, passed on Tuesday afternoon following a two-week illness. Funeral arrangements were not completed Wednesday morning. Mr. Siegel is at the Alt Mortuary.

Other survivors are his mother, Mrs. Harold Homrig of Sparta; his father, Manus Brown of Greenville; a sister, Mrs. Robert Alguire of Sparta and a brother, Richard Brown of Greenville.

Services were held Friday at the Brown-Teman Funeral Home in Greenville. Officiating was the Rev. Richard L. Ford of the Greenville Congregational Church. Military honors were paid to Mr. Brown during the funeral services by the Lekstrum-Burnett American Legion Post.

Camp Lake Golf Course Now Open

Sparta's newest business enterprise - The Camp Lake Golf Course officially opens this weekend, according to Owners Gordon DeFouw and Eddie Way, who extend a hearty invitation to North Kent area residents to drop by to view the updated golfing facilities.

The course consists of nine holes lying west of Camp Lake and east of Division St. Clubhouse facilities also have been completely rejuvenated for the pleasure and comfort of those persons using the golf course.

Mr. DeFouw and his son-in-law, Mr. Way, have moved from Grand Rapids to the clubhouse and grounds which they recently bought from Harold Lister. Mr. Lister has moved to Westgate, in southern Alpine Township.

Details about an opening special making provision for a two-year family membership are given in an advertisement appearing in this newspaper.

EDITORIAL:

How Long Must We Wait?

How long must we wait?

This question has been on the lips of many residents of the Kent City area since Friday morning following another auto crash at the intersection of old M-37 and M-57.

The accident sent William A. Mueller of Muskegon, an employee of the Department of Agriculture, to Butterworth Hospital in critical condition and injured Mrs. Harriet Anne Schmitz of Grand Rapids. Their's was the worst by far of four similar accidents occurring at the intersection since the by-pass was opened last October.

Primary cause of hazard is that stop signs have been placed to stop north-south traffic rather than as formerly, vehicles going east and west. This takes motorists unawares who are not used to the intersection.

The question ...AND IT IS DIRECTED AT STATE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS... might also be phrased: Must we wait for a fatal accident before a proper stop light is placed at the intersection?

Only time will tell. We hope it won't be long!

BILL MEYER REGISTERS PERFECT TWELVE-YEAR SCHOOL ATTENDANCE



Bill Meyer

Bill Meyer, son of Mr. and Mrs. A. G. Meyer of 180 Loomis, will graduate Sunday from Sparta High School with a perfect 12-year attendance record starting in the first grade. Bill attended the Sparta Area Schools for all of his 12 absent-free years. This record, according to school officials, is the longest tenure of perfect attendance ever compiled in the Sparta schools by any student. Bill will enroll at Ferris Institute in Big Rapids this fall.

SANDRA KUTZLI, 3, DROWNED TUESDAY IN CROCKERY LAKE

Three-year-old Sandra Kutzli, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Kutzli of 38 Pleasant St., drowned Tuesday afternoon at Crockery Lake when the car in which she and her sister, Arlene, 4, were seated rolled back into 20 feet of water.

It was reported that the car began to roll back when Sandra released the emergency brake. Mr. Kutzli was able to rescue Arlene by breaking a window in the car as it became submerged. The accident occurred on the south side of the lake.

Funeral arrangements are incomplete.

LITTLE LEAGUE PLAY

In the first Little League competition of the season Monday evening, it was Kent City 2 and Sparta Jaycees 0. The Casnovia Little Leaguers won 6-2 over another Sparta Jaycee team, thanks largely to a grand slam homerun by Ronnie Studer in the fourth inning.



Jeff Mutchler, son of Mr. and Mrs. E. G. Mutchler of 209 Alma, proudly displays the Northern Pike he caught on Thursday, Memorial Day, at Croton Dam in Newaygo County. The Northern Pike weighed in at 14 pounds and measured 40 1/2 inches long. Jeff, who will be in the tenth grade at Sparta High School in the fall, said that it took 24 minutes to land the fish. He was fishing with his parents, a brother, Tom, and sister, Mary.

THE SENTINEL-LEADER

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SO THEY TELL ME . . .

(Formerly Sparta Locals)

by SUE BRAND

Monday, June 10, in the Legion Hall. New officers will be elected and installed for the coming year.

Brownie Girl Scouts in Mrs. Don Hudson's troop will be guests of the Buck Berry show Saturday morning.

Lynn and Joyce Lewis and boys spent the weekend in Channing in the upper peninsula visiting Rans and Arlene Hill and family.

Carol Falconer, 9-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Falconer of 12 Mile Rd., returned home from hospital after receiving treatment for injuries which occurred when she fell over the handlebars of her bicycle. The accident occurred Friday at the corner of 12 Mile Rd. and Martindale when an approaching car startled her.

Hot weather and the close of school came all at once . . . and both give residents of the North Kent area cause for reflection and cheer. Together with a look at the calendar, they leave no doubt that summer is here. With it come happy outdoor times and "vacation" becomes closer to a reality.

Mr. and Mrs. Allen Cummings and family entertained at their cottage at Hess Lake on Memorial Day. Some 42 persons were on hand. This number, of course, included a goodly number of the small fry.

Clifford "Clipper" Anderson, 13-year-old son of John and Lorraine Anderson of W. Averill St., has returned home from Butterworth Hospital where he underwent corrective foot surgery.

The annual softball tournament at Heyt-Vineak Park following the Memorial Day parade was a winner for the "vets" as they defeated the Neighborhood All-Stars 5-4. Forgetting their sore muscles and aching feet, the vets lasted five innings, long enough to show the All-Stars they could hold their own and beat them at their own game. Playing for the vets were Jack Erhart, Lew Salisbury, Gerry Heyt (who was relieved in the first inning by Gerry, Jr.) Gene Heugel, Mike Vineak, Ken Hudson, Spike Overholt, Ron Overholt and Dennis Salisbury.

Jim Anderson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Lyle Anderson, has been staying with his parents this week. He will spend the summer on the east coast and attend Yale in the fall.

The Carlton Badgerows' are moving into their new home. It's address: 88 King Blvd.

Mr. and Mrs. Lyle Anderson will attend graduation at Michigan State University. Their daughter, Marjorie, who will spend the summer working at Childrens' Hospital in Detroit, is about to receive her degree.

Col. Thomas Ryan Warner and wife and daughter, Anne, of Silver Spring, Md., and Michael Connell of Pittsburgh, Pa., are vacationing at the home of his mother, Mrs. Alice Warner, Washington St.

The Wendell Claxtons' were in charge of a neighborhood steak fry last Saturday evening at their home. Those who were there to sink their teeth into thick, juicy steaks were Mr. and Mrs. Don Bradford, Mr.

and Mrs. Lloyd Berdans, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Titus, Mr. and Mrs. Bob Taylor, Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Smith, Mrs. Lloyd Lindeman, Mrs. Hollebeck, Mr. and Mrs. John Anderson, Mr. and Mrs. Duane Bradford and Mr. and Mrs. Fred Rambow.

Mrs. William Riordan, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. L. A. Anderson, are visiting her parents this week.

Rev. and Mrs. Don Baker had as their guests Thursday, Memorial Day, Dr. and Mrs. C. E. Morrell of Hastings.

David Bruce, son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Beverwyk, has been spending two weeks leave from the Navy at home relaxing with his parents. He will return to Great Lakes to spend 24 weeks in Radar School.

MISTAKES DO HAPPEN

Mistakes do happen . . . and this time it wasn't our fault!

In last week's issue of The Sentinel Leader, it was reported that Franklin A. Snowdin, 17, son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Snowdin of Conklin, completed recruit training at the Naval Training Center, Great Lakes, Ill.

Accompanying the news item was a photograph which we presumed was that of Snowdin. It was not, although this was sent to us from the Navy.

CHURCH NOTES

Peace Lutheran Church will receive a group of adults into membership on Sunday, June 9. The service begins at 10 o'clock. The group has completed a 15-week course on the fundamental teachings of the Lutheran Church, according to Pastor Roy Schroeder.

The Rev. and Mrs. Ralph Tweedy spent several days last week vacationing at Clarks Hill, Ind.

SPARTA

Notice!

NOW—Movies 6 Nights
Weekly!

—Closed Mondays—

FRI. — SAT. — SUN.

JUNE 7, 8 & 9

NOW SEE—

"THE OUTSIDER"

The Story of Ira Hayes, who hit the heights at Iwo Jima!

—STARRING—
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TUES. — WED. — THURS.

JUNE 11, 12 & 13

First Show Starts at 8:00
Box office opens at 7:45 p.m.

"NIGHT CREATURES"

—STARRING—
PETER CUSHING
YVONNE ROMAIN
PATRICK ALLEN
OLIVER REED