

MICKEY O'DAY DIES IN ABERDEEN LAKE

SUCCUMBS TO AN ATTACK OF
THE HEART AS HE LEAPS
FROM SPRINGBOARD

They buried Mickey (Leonard) O'Day Wednesday — as game and courageous and square a fighter as ever crawled through the ropes to face an opponent.

Mickey took the long, long count Sunday. An unseen foe whom no man has ever been able to beat, shot a stunning blow to the heart as Mickey sprang from a springboard in Wylie park, Aberdeen, and Mickey went down unable to defend himself—not prepared for an adversary whom he did not know existed. And there on the bottom of the lake, Mickey took the long, long count, his face buried in cooling mud and his body hidden from view by the whispering waters of Lake Minne-he-ho. No one saw Fate raise the hand of death in token of victory and perhaps it is well. It would have broken Mickey's heart to have been counted out by anyone with the world looking on.

Death crept up on Mickey as he stood on a spring board poised for a dive into the waters below him. And as his lithe body which fight fans all over the Northwest knew so well, cleaved the waters below, the last round in the life of a gallant Irishman, a youth in years, but a man in physique, was silently waged and Mickey lost. Somewhere down under four feet of water a fighting heart that carried him through countless ring encounters, failed. He did not "come out at the bell."

Missed by Mrs. Hughes

Mrs. Hughes, who was standing on the shore with her husband first missed Mickey when he took the fatal plunge from the spring board. When he did not come to the surface after a few minutes, she mentioned the fact to her husband who was standing nearby. Then she called to her daughter, also in bathing and who had not seen him since he dove from the board. The life-guard was notified, but he scoffed at the idea of a man like Mickey drowning. He was an expert swimmer, but a few minutes later they removed his lifeless body from the bottom of the lake. All efforts to revive him failed. Resuscitation was applied, adrenalin injections given and the fire department with its pulmotor worked on him for two hours, but the blow that Fate had shot to his heart had been too powerful. He could not be revived.

The events leading up to his death indicate that Mickey might have died from one of three causes since no water was found on his lungs. Together with his bride of ten days and Mr. and Mrs. Hughes he had enjoyed a picnic dinner in Wylie Park and afterwards donned a bathing suit for a swim. It might have been an acute dilated stomach caused by swimming too soon after eating a meal. His death could be attributed to attempting to hold his breath too long, or a dilated enlarged heart might have been the cause. Medical authorities are inclined to think it was the latter.

Promising Fighter

He was one of the most promising young fighters to be developed in the Northwest in years. Only 18 years of age, he had scores of ring battles behind him and never lost a decision until Death caught him out of the squared ring and with a suddenness that paralyzes thought dealt him a blow for which no defense has ever been found.

This is the only time that Mickey had ever been counted out, although he had met some of the leading boxers in the northwest in rings at Minneapolis, Sioux City and other large cities. A draw was the only thing that marred a perfect record in the ring.

Mickey was born November 23, 1914, in Croton and on July 7, just about two weeks ago, he was married to Miss Pauline Helen Dwyer at Webster, who together with his mother and several sisters and brothers are left to survive him. Mrs. Ethel Daly, Mrs. John Kentes, of Milwaukee, Catherine Daley of Minneapolis, Ivan and Melvin O'Day and Norma, Gladys and Clyde Daley are the survivors.

The funeral was held Wednesday afternoon at 2:00 at the Hughes home, conducted by Rev. Kildahl of Webster, who only a fortnight ago said the ritual that united him with his bride. The remains were buried in Croton cemetery.

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