

Ruth S. Beier Death Held Accidental

End Caused by Use of Radio While in Tub

Mrs. Ruth S. Beier, 29, wife of Paul R. Beier, associated with his brothers in the Beier Wholesale bakery of Elgin, was accidentally electrocuted early Sunday morning by a small electric radio while she was taking a tub bath in her home at 481 Addison St. When Mrs. Beier's body was found by her husband, her radio was submerged in the tub, still connected with an electric socket by means of an extension cord. Whether the radio had been on the edge of the tub and fell into the water or Mrs. Beier reached to touch a control knob with a wet hand and the contact jerked the radio into the tub probably never will be known.

Planned to Take a Bath

Coroner L. Victor Peterson held an Inquest this morning at the Norris Funeral Chapel and a verdict of accidental electrocution was returned by the jury. The only witnesses to testify at the inquest were the widower, Mrs. Beier's father, Herman Plote, and Lt. Robert Koch of the police department. Beier said that he and his wife spent Saturday evening in Chicago, having left their son, Bruce, 5 weeks old, with Mr. and Mrs. Plote. They returned home about 12:30 am and Mrs. Beier had said she planned to take a bath before retiring. Beier testified that he sat downstairs listening to another radio as his wife took the portable set to the bathroom.

Heard Wife Scream

It was about 1 am when Beier said he heard his wife scream and then heard her body fall. He ran upstairs and when he tried to enter the bathroom, found the door locked. Efforts to break it open with his shoulder proved futile and then he obtained a hammer and shattered one of the panels, so that he could reach in and unlock the catch. Beier said he found his wife's body with her head toward the foot of the tub and not submerged. Her legs were hanging over the edge of the tub, indicating she might have been partly out of the tub when she touched the radio and then fell back into the water, still holding the radio. Beier said that he did not receive a shock when he pulled his wife's body from the tub and started artificial respiration. Mrs. Beier was pulseless and Beier then telephoned the fire department, and fireman Edward Struckman was sent to the residence with an inhalator.

Elgin High Graduate

Lt. Robert Mayer and patrolmen James O'Flarity, Arthur Kopperdale and N.J. Santanni also investigated. Efforts to revive Mrs. Beier proved futile and she was pronounced dead shortly afterwards by a doctor. Born in Burlington on Oct 16, 1917, Mrs. Beier moved to Elgin with her parent in 1920 and had since resided here. She was graduated from Elgin High School with the class of 1935 and later attended Ellis Business College. She was employed in the office of the Beier Bakery for five years prior to her marriage to Mr. Beier on July 27, 1946. Mrs. Beier was a member of St. John's Lutheran church. Besides the widower and son, Bruce Reinhold Beier, and her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Herman Plote, she is survived by a sister, Mrs. Emil (Alice) Freuchtenicht of Payette, Idaho; a brother Donne Lee Plote of Elgin, and her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. John Nesler of Elgin.

Rites Tuesday

Funeral services will be held at 2:30 Tuesday afternoon at the Norris Funeral Home and at 3 at St. John's Lutheran church. The Rev. Arthur H. Werfelmann will officiate, and burial will be in Bluff City Cemetery. The services at the funeral home will be private. Friends may call at the mortuary.

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