

GASOLINE FIRE PROVES FATAL

Plote Dies Today in Local Hospital

Severe burns suffered last Thursday night when his gasoline soaked clothing was ignited while he was working on a truck in the Herman W. Hecht garage on North Grove avenue, proved fatal to Erwin H. Plote, 672 Wing street, at 8:40 o'clock this morning at St. Joseph's Hospital. Plote sustained first, second and third degree burns about his face, head and the upper half of his body, and his condition gradually became weaker until his death this morning. Coroner Herman J. Vierke is scheduled to conduct an inquest in Plote's death tomorrow morning at the F. T. Norris Funeral Chapel. Plote was one of the CWA workers, and although he was not employed in the Hecht Garage, he had gone there Thursday night to clean up the engine of a milk truck which was owned by a friend. Charles Stickling, night attendant at the garage told Coroner Vierke this morning that he was in the front of the garage and did not hear any explosion. He heard Plote scream for help and saw that his clothing was in flames. Stickling succeeded in extinguishing the blaze, but not before the man had suffered terrible burns. Plote was removed to the hospital in an ambulance and because of the seriousness of his condition, police were unable to determine just how the accident occurred. It is believed, however, that he was cleaning the engine with gasoline and that some of the fluid got into his clothing and was ignited. Plote was 24 years old. He is survived by his wife and one child.

Elgin Courier-News – No Date