

RED WILLOW LAKE CLAIMS TWO VICTIMS

**B. C. Phipps and Harry Vadnie, of McHenry, Drown While on a
Fishing Trip Last Friday Evening—Bodies
Recovered Saturday.**

The news of the drowning of B. C. Phipps and Harry Vadnie, of McHenry, in Red Willow lake, passed quickly from mouth to mouth last Saturday and cast a pall of gloom over the people in this section of the state.

The exact details of the drowning will never be known, but a theory, which seems the correct one, is shared by all. After rowing from Mr. Phipps' cottage at the south end of the lake, to the north end, the men were in the act of beginning their fishing operations, when the boat capsized throwing the occupants into the water. Mr. Vadnie, being unable to swim was helped by Mr. Phipps in reaching the upturned boat. At this stage it is thought they cried for help. The reason for this belief is that Mr. Cowen, who lives at the south end of the lake, while doing his chores, heard sounds, but dismissed it from his mind, thinking it was nothing more than the howling of coyotes, a thing not at all uncommon around his farm. However, since the drowning was learned of the next day, he believes it may have been the distress call of the unfortunate victims. Rather than remain in their perilous position until nightfall, when it would be certain that their cries would not be answered, Mr. Phipps, being a good swimmer, decided he would aid his companion and swim to shore, a distance of about 15 rods. With this idea in mind, they set out for shore, and were seized with cramps. The fact that the two bodies were recovered close together, and from the further fact that Mr. Vadnie's arms were in a position apparently clasping around Mr. Phipps' body, leads to the belief that the men went down together. They were last seen alive at about 7:00 o'clock and the drowning could not have occurred much later than that, as it was afterwards discovered that the watch belonging to one of the men had stopped at 8:10 o'clock.

Leaving McHenry at 4:30 o'clock Friday afternoon, expecting to be back home during the evening, their absence over night and late Saturday forenoon, caused some anxiety and a telephone message was sent to Mr. Cowen to ascertain if they were still at the lake. Upon investigation Mr. Cowen found the automobile near Mr. Phipps' cottage, and the lunch they had with them, left untouched. Further search revealed the overturned boat drifting on the water and the hat of one of the men floating near by. Mr. Cowen imme-

diately made known his discoveries and the alarm spread to the neighboring towns.

Searching parties went out from McHenry, Binford and Cooperstown Saturday afternoon, and at once proceeded to the spot which gave evidence of where the bodies might be found. Dragging the bottom of the lake with rakes, grab hooks and poles, the body of Mr. Phipps was first raised to the surface, but was lost again when his clothing slipped off an ordinary garden rake. In another attempt to recover the body, the sweater, worn by Mr. Vadnie, became fastened in the rake. The body of Mr. Phipps was soon recovered with the use of a three-tined drag hook. They were taken ashore and placed in the Pritz cottage until the arrival of Coroner Brimi from Cooperstown, who rendered his verdict.

John Vadnie, a brother of Harry, arrived from Sherbrooke, and took the remains to his home at that place, and Mr. Phipps' body was taken to McHenry.

B. C. Phipps was born at Paynesville, Minnesota, 41 years ago and about 14 years ago was married to Miss Anna Hammer, of Cooperstown. He is survived by his wife and one daughter and a son. His mother lives at Pasadena, California, and a sister, Mrs. Drinkwater, lives at Boxbells, this state. He was prominent in business and social circles of McHenry, where he has resided for the past ten years. He was prominent in Masonic circles, being a member of the Cooperstown lodge.

H. R. Vadnie came to McHenry about a year ago from Sanborn and has conducted the Seigfred drug store since that time. His home was formerly at Sherbrooke, where his parents still reside. He was 23 years of age and has won a host of warm friends since locating there. He recently passed an examination for the United States service and was going to enlist in the hospital corps. The funeral of Mr. Vadnie was held Monday at Sherbrooke.

Services over the remains of Mr. Phipps were held at McHenry Tuesday afternoon, and then taken to Cooperstown, where the body will lie in state in the auditorium of the Masonic temple, until 1:00 p. m. today, when the funeral will be conducted by the Masonic lodge.

Profound sympathy is extended to the bereaved relatives over the sudden and unnatural death of their loved ones.