

20-Year-Old Quint Buried In Rural Parish Cemetery

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with the Royal Canadian Air Force at St. Hubert, Quebec, and Victor at home; and Maurice Girouard of Waterloo, Que., and Thomas Callahan of Espanola, Ont.

THE PARENTS, Mr. and Mrs. Oliva Dionne, the four surviving Quintuplets, Annette, Cecile, Marie and Yvonne, three older sisters, Mrs. Maurice Girouard (Rose-Marie) of Waterloo, Mrs. Thomas Callahan (Therese) of Espanola, and Pauline of Montreal; and the youngest brother, Claude of Corbell, occupied seats near the casket and it was apparent to all how hard a blow they had suffered in the loss of Emilie.

After Mass, the cortege proceeded to the parish cemetery, a mile from the church and some three miles from the Dionne home.

Not since the days when the Quintuplets as babies were on public display in a special playground at their home have there been such crowds as converged on the Dionne home to pay honor to Emilie's memory.

Her body arrived about 9 p.m. Saturday from Montreal in a motor hearse accompanied by a car carrying her sister and brother-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Maurice Girouard of Waterloo, Que., and other friends. The motorcade took about nine hours to reach the family home at Corbell, but even by that time there were cars congaing in the vicinity of the home.

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down the highway from the Dionne home for more than a mile. Some had been in line since Saturday.

From 2 p.m. until nearly midnight Sunday there were thousands who filed past the open casket in the large living room of "Emilie's family home"—the aged and the young, mothers and fathers, many from far away points, the humble and the great, they all had a common bond of sorrow, and a word of condolence for the bereaved family.

Messages of sympathy came from many parts of the world, from the representatives of Church and State, members of federal and provincial governments, from representatives of the Holy See and from members of the Sacred College of Cardinals, from persons in all walks of life. The beautiful floral tributes and the countless spiritual offerings bespoke the depth of a universal sorrow.

It was mid-afternoon on Friday (Aug. 6) that the press wires flashed the message that Emilie Dionne had died suddenly at Ste. Agathe, a health resort in the Laurentians of Quebec Province, some 45 miles north of Montreal.

Emilie had been resting at L'Accueil Gal (The Happy Inn), a rest home for aged at Ste. Agathe, directed by The Missionary Oblates of the Immaculate, an organization of lay Catholic women devoted to care of the sick, aged and the infirm, and the teaching of the young. It is known that Emilie would have liked to become a member of this organization, but as previously announced, her health did not permit her to carry out this wish. However, she was happy to be there, and her presence there at the time of her death gave rise to erroneous reports that she had become a postulant.

The first public announcement of Emilie's death came from her father at Corbell.

Mr. and Mrs. Dionne received a telephone call from the Ste. Agathe home early in the morning of Friday advising them to go to Emilie's bedside. Just as Mr. and Mrs. Dionne were preparing to leave Mr. Dionne put a hand to his forehead and gasped that his daughter had just died.

Emilie had not been quite herself in recent months, Mr. Dionne said, and that was why she had gone to Ste. Agathe to rest. The air there is good. "But we were not prepared for anything like this," the heart-broken father declared.

Mr. Dionne learned that Emilie had died following a stroke.

Among the first to reach the home to console the parents, the four other quintuplets who were at home at the time and the other children, was Father La France, parish priest of Sacred

Heart Church. To Father La France and Mort Fellman, managing editor of the North Bay Nugget, a personal friend whom Mr. Dionne had called to his home, the stricken father said:

"It is going to be tough, very tough. We never expected anything like this. I received a letter from her only yesterday and everything seemed all right. . . . We are certainly going to miss her, I guess this was meant to be, but we all have great faith."

MR. FELLMAN said Mrs. Dionne came into the room to take a telephone message in French. "As always her appearance was extremely neat. Her face was lined with grief and she was holding back the tears. She took both my hands in a firm grasp and then went to the telephone, where she spoke distinctly for several minutes."

"She is stronger than I am at a time like this, her husband remarked as he fondly looked upon her. 'We have come through a lot during the past 20 years, and she has always been wonderful!'"

Meanwhile at Ste. Agathe, Dr. Jean Louis Tailion, coroner for that district, had ordered an inquest to be held and an autopsy to determine the cause of Emilie's death. Under Quebec law an inquest is held in the case of anyone who dies while not under a doctor's care. Members of the Dionne family agreed to the autopsy.

Dr. Rosario Fontaine, Quebec's world-famous medical legal expert, hurried back to Montreal from a holiday and conducted the autopsy. The autopsy showed that Emilie had died from an epileptic stroke and it was revealed that Emilie had suffered epileptic seizures in the past. This was the first official confirmation that she had been subject to epilepsy.

After her death her sister, Mrs. Maurice Girouard who had been summoned with her husband to Ste. Agathe to make arrangements for removal of the body to the Dionne home at Corbell, had revealed that Emilie had been subject to what she termed fainting spells for a long time. At birth she had been given little chance to survive. When she was three she suffered a strep infection, which almost

waged her death. In later years she suffered from the fainting spells which now develop to have been epileptic attacks.

THURSDAY SHE suffered an attack and, was placed in bed. Friday morning she suffered two more attacks and Dr. Albert Joannette was called. A third attack about 10:15 a.m. Friday was fatal, before Dr. Joannette could reach her bedside. Msgr. Omer

Lavergne, chaplain of the home, administered the last rites to Emilie just before she died. When Dr. Joannette had only pronounced the girl dead and had not established the cause of death, the coroner, Dr. Tailion, decided that an autopsy should be held to establish the cause of death.

After members of the home and friends had recited the rosary and other prayers at the fu-

neral home in Ste. Agathe, the body was removed to Montreal for the autopsy and thence to Corbell for funeral and burial.

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