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Keith Meadows

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Birth: 1933
Death: 1944

Courtesy of: Lillian #47192135

The Carnegie Herald, Wed., May 10, 1944
Two Eakly Boys Go On Fatal Swim Party
Two boys who were inseparable pals, classmates in the fifth grade at Sickles school northeast of Eakly, each 11 years old and their birthdays the same day, went to their death locked in each other's arms Sunday. The boys went for a swim as part of their birthday celebration and drowned in a small stream on the Gordon Burkhart farm occupied by Walter Sharry.

The boys were Alfred Putcheck, jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Putcheck, and Keith Meadows, son of Mr. and Mrs. Roy Meadows. The two families live about a mile apart on adjoining farms three miles east of Eakly. The bodies were recovered from a hole seven feet deep at 11 p.m. after aroused neighbors had searched for hours.

Mrs. Putcheck baked a birthday cake for the boys Sunday and Keith was spending the day with Alfred in celebration of their birthday which was two days later. In the afternoon the boys left the house without announcing their destination. In the evening when the family dog came to the house, Mr. Putcheck remarked that "the dog is in, the boys will soon be here."

When the boys did not arrive home a search was started and neighbors attending church at Oak Dale joined the hunt. The boys' shoes were found some distance from where their clothing was discovered. They had removed their shoes and waded up the small stream to the swimming hole. The bodies were discovered with their arms about each other by Oland Hudson. He with Otto Sink, Hubert McDaniel and Elmo Kimble recovered the bodies from the icy water. Hudson said the first stepoff into the small hole was about knee deep, the second about waist deep and then there was a sharp decline to seven or eight feet.

The boys were the same age, in the same class at school and each was an only child. Unconfirmed reports and speculation have constructed many solutions of the Sunday afternoon tragedy. Neither of the boys could swim and both were afraid of water, according to one report. Another report said the boys planned the swimming party at school Friday. Mr. Putcheck said he was the



Added by: [Lillian](#)



Cemetery Photo

Added by: [Rita Goodwin](#)

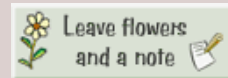
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last person to see the boys alive. They told him they were going for a walk. And so the trip to the creek was planned. The boys treked off across the field to the neighboring farm, removing their shoes and waded ankle-deep water to the hole fed by a spring. They might have waded in and stepped into the deep hole together. The fact that neither could swim would discount the theory that one went to the rescue of the other, it was pointed out by rescuers. Funeral services for the victims were held Tuesday on their birthday. Rev. T. Mulder, assisted by Rev. L.W. Skaggs, conducted the services for Alfred at 1 p.m. in the Eakly Methodist church, and Rev. Ben Crawford conducted the services for Keith at 4:30 p.m. in the Oak Dale Baptist church. Burial for both boys was in the Eakly cemetery.

Family links:

Parents:

[Roy Meadows \(1902 - 1969\)](#)

[Othal Meadows \(1910 - 2005\)](#)

Burial:

[Eakly Cemetery](#)

Eakly

Caddo County

Oklahoma, USA

Created by: [Nancy Charlton](#)

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