

## Coroner's Jury Commends John Miller for Signal Bravery in Hubbard Woods Tragedy

Commendation for the heroic efforts of John Miller, flagman, in attempting to rescue William Tanner and his wife from death at the Gage street crossing of the Chicago and North Western railroad in Hubbard Woods, formed a part of the verdict given Friday afternoon, October 10, at the coroner's inquest held at the Evanston hospital.

Miller's testimony concluded the coroner's investigation. The jury returned a verdict declaring that Mr. and Mrs. Tanner met death while crossing the tracks in Hubbard Woods and recommending that the railroad install safety gates at the crossing. No mention was made in the verdict of the original story that Tanner met death with his wife after struggling to free her foot which had become wedged between the rail and planking on the crossing.

Miller's testimony, given in broken English as he lay on a cot in the Evanston hospital, materially changed the original story he told following the accident. At that time he declared he had been struck by the train when trying to help Tanner free his wife. He told the coroner's jury that he did not reach the couple but himself was struck by the train a moment before he would have rescued them.

"It all happened in a moment," said Miller. "And it really is hard to recall just exactly what did occur."

The coroner's jury stated in the verdict: "We, the jury, at this time desire to spread on the record a word of commendation and praise for the gateman, John Miller, stationed at the Gage street crossing at the time of this unfortunate occurrence, for his devotion to duty in attempting to rescue the Tanners, in which attempt he was struck and nearly lost his life."

The death of the Tanners aroused great national sympathy at the time, as three small children were left orphans, and whether Tanner did right

place in which Mrs. Tanner's foot in sacrificing his life in trying to rescue his wife was discussed pro and con in the newspapers for weeks. The children are now in Albany, N. Y., with relatives.

Miller in his testimony gave the complete story of the Hubbard Woods accident and modestly told of his part in it. A resume of his testimony is as follows:

"My name is John Miller. I live at Glencoe, Illinois, and am employed as flagman on the Gage street crossing of the Chicago and North Western railroad. I was at my post at 7 o'clock on the night of September 1. I came out of my shanty shortly before the express was due. I noticed Mr. and Mrs. Tanner standing near the drug store talking to some people whom I did not know. The express at this time was just coming out of the woodland a quarter of a mile distant. Mr. and Mrs. Tanner started to cross the tracks so that they might take the local which was pulling in at the same time on the other track. I blew my whistle and shouted to them to stay back. They would not listen. Mr. Tanner grabbed Mrs. Tanner by the arm and tried to beat the train to the crossing. As they came to the crossing Mrs. Tanner fell and cried 'My God!' Her dress appeared to be hanging down and I could not see whether her foot was caught or not. Mr. Tanner fell down by her side. The train at that time was about 100 feet distant. I ran to them to try to help them. Just as I reached them the train struck me. It hit me about a second before it hit them."

Miller testified that Mrs. Tanner fell on the west side of the west-rail of the east track. He further testified that at this point a new walk had been put in and that as far as he knew there were no cracks at this testimony given at the inquest tends to discredit the theory that Mrs.

Tanner's foot was caught between the rail and the boards.

Miller further testified that the express was going about fifty miles an hour but that it whistled twice, that the bell was ringing and that the headlight was lighted. After the testimony was given the jury was called into session to consider the case and to bring a verdict.

The names of the jurors are as follows: Deputy Coroner G. A. Williston in charge; R. F. Milne, 1640 Maple Avenue, Evanston; W. L. Laughlin, 1624 Maple Avenue, Evanston; Werner B. Mahlman, Evanston; F. Mester, 912 Hamlin street, Evanston; Otto Heinze, 1239 Leon street, Evanston; R. R. Milne, 1640 Maple Avenue, Evanston.

### MEMORIAL SERVICES FOR LIEUT. WILLIAM C. POPE

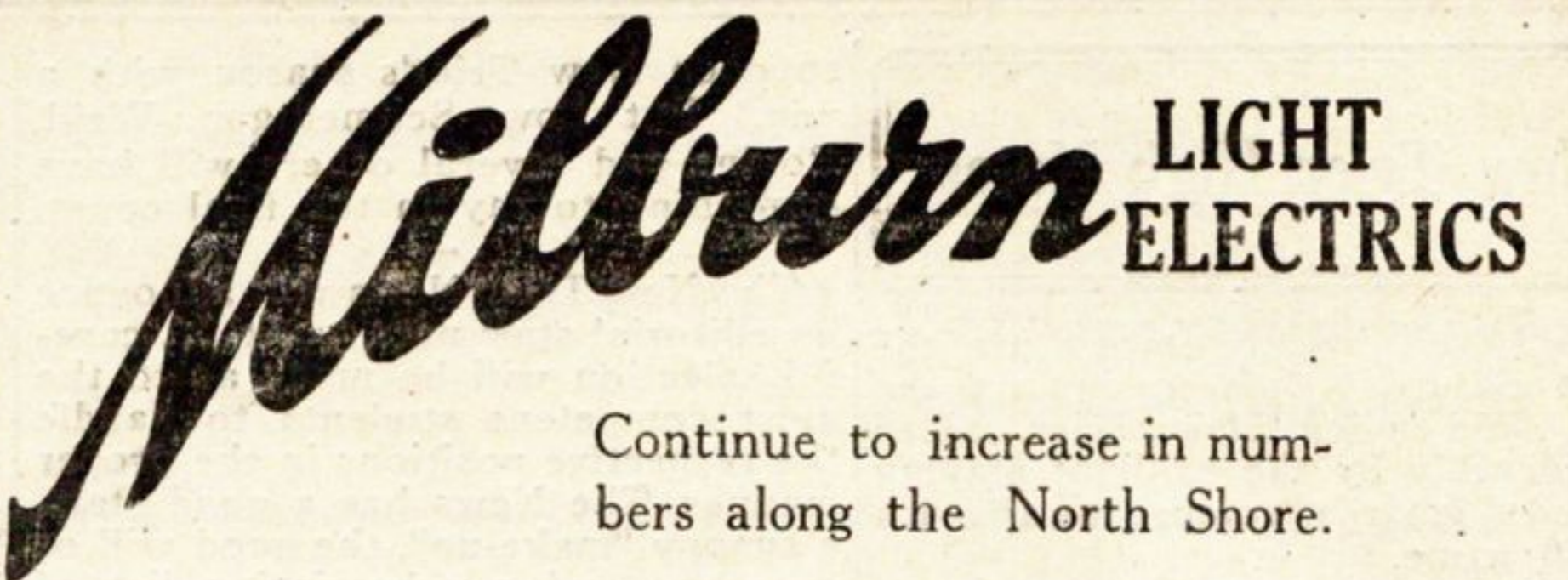
Services Will Be Held in Waukegan Methodist Church Sunday For Wilmette War Hero

Memorial services for Lieutenant William C. Pope, brother of Miss Isabel Pope, of Wilmette, who died in Paris October 17, 1918, will be held in Waukegan at the First Methodist church, Sunday, October 19, at 4 o'clock.

Lieutenant Pope died in a Paris hospital of pneumonia brought on by weakened condition from wounds received in action. He was wounded on July 15 in action at Chateau Thierry. He was a lieutenant of artillery in the Tenth regiment. Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Pope, the parents, are residents of Waukegan. Memorial services had not previously been held for Lieutenant Pope.

### HOME BUREAUS FEDERATE

In New York state a movement is on foot to make the state federation of farm bureaus representative of the women's interests as well as those of the men. The women who now have representation in the county organization, which are known as the joint farm and home bureaus, have asked that the form of the state federation be altered to give them similar representation in the larger association.



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