

Death Takes H. B. Porter

One of the Automotive Division's best-known and respected employes, Howard B. Porter, died suddenly April 28.

Mr. Porter, 54, had been with Motor Wheel since April 17, 1923 when he was hired into the tool room. In 1930 he was promoted to assistant foreman and inspector in the tool room and in 1938 again was promoted



Mr. Porter

to night foreman. He continued in this position until September, 1943 when he was named to succeed the late Otto B. Tishrock as superintendent of the heavy press department. He remained in that position until his death.

Serving as pallbearers at Mr. Porter's funeral were Clifford Tebo, Lloyd N. Robinson, Lawrence W. Titmus, Cedric D. Blanchard, Wallace B. Wygant and Emil Lange, all Motor Wheel employes.

Burial was in Reed Cemetery. Officiating at services was the Rev. Thomas Toy, long-time friend of the family. Mr. Porter had been a member of Westminster Presbyterian Church and the Elks.

Death Ends Gratiot Era Begun In '78

ITHACA, April 30—An era that began more than 77 years ago—when Gratiot county was widely

known as "starving Gratiot" and a bride had to walk into town in her bare feet to meet the parson—came to an end Saturday. The marital team of Wilson and Lois Brodebeck, wed on Feb. 28, 1878, was parted by the death of the Mrs. Brodebeck, 94-year-old wife. She died Saturday at Jones convalescent home, Perinton, where she had been suffering for several weeks after breaking a hip.



MUDDY TRAILS TO TOWN

Wilson I. Brodebeck was just three months old when he arrived with his family in the spring of 1858, two years after the post office opened in Ithaca. Lois Peet, born Feb. 27, 1861, in Lorraine county, Ohio, came to Gratiot county when she was 14 and she still found little but muddy trails leading into town. She was never certain in her later years whether she walked barefoot, or wore old shoes, as she danced along logs between quagmires en route to her wedding. Wilson carried her dress shoes, she recalled.

In Ithaca, they found the street paved with a series of logs laid atop the mud but they launched into wedded life and saw Gratiot grow from timber and brush into some of the state's finest farming lands. They lived recently on a 320-acre farm with modern conveniences, a far cry from a log-walled cabin with puncheon floors. Jerry Brodebeck, a grandson, ran the farm.

FUNERAL SET MONDAY

Survivors besides her 96-year-old husband are a daughter, Sarah, at home; two sisters, Mrs. Timoline Cross of Merrill and Mrs. Lydia Dubschinsky of Saginaw county; two grandchildren—one of them being Mrs. Donald Aubertin, 324 S. Clemens ave., Lansing, and four great-grandchildren, one of them being Sandra Brodebeck, Michigan State college student.

The funeral will be at 2 p. m. Monday at the Barden funeral home, Ithaca, with Rev. Norman Van Der Hart officiating. Burial will be in Hamilton township cemetery.

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