Dr. C. L. Brimi

Heart Failure Causes End: Was a Shock to All

Passed Away Monday Evening on Way From Home to His Office

Pioneer Doctor Here

Remains to Eau Clare, Wisconsin for Burial, Has Three Children

Funeral services will be held at the Lutheran Church at 1:30 this (Thursday) afternoon, Rev. Estrem officiating. The remains will be taken to Eau Clare, Wisconsin, for burial this afternoon.

Dr. Brimi is dead, carried out of life so quickly as to liken that interval between his apparent health and death to a flash.

On Monday night, following an evening at home with his three children, while Mrs. Brimi was in attendance at the Parent-Teachers’ meeting at the school house. He left home at about 10 o’clock for his office, apparently to replenish the furnace fire there. He never reached his office. He got as far as the Benson photo studio and residence, which is next door to his office. Mr. Benson, while in the act of locking the door, pushed open the storm door, to observe that Dr. Brimi was standing there. “I’m a very sick man; let me come in.” Mr. Benson says were the last words spoken by the doctor. He helped himself almost inside the house when he placed his ?????? upon ??? Benson’s shoulders for support and fell to the floor. Help was immediately summoned, Dr. Reese who is caring for the practice of Dr. Westley in his absence, and who, also, was a schoolmate of Dr. Brimi’s, arriving within ten minutes of the time he fell. Though all possible restoratives were resorted to, there was no evidence of life. Dr. Truscott of Binford, deputy coroner under Dr. Brimi, was summoned and agreed with Dr. Rees (sic) that the cause of death was heart failure.

None knew that Dr. Brimi had been at any time troubled by his heart. However, he had told Mrs. Brimi at one time that he did not have as strong a heart as he might. But it is certain that his condition was never such as to cause him any alarm. He had been very energetic and apparently strong of body in every respect. But it is known that he realized throughout Monday night that his heart was not functioning as it ought.

He returned about six o’clock in the evening from a call at Hannaford, visited with I. D. Allen, who was making a clock repair at this office, and went home to supper. During the visit with Mr. Allen there was no hint that the doctor was feeling other than his usual self, nor was there evidence of illness at his supper.

Upon the departure of Mrs. Brimi for the meeting at the school house the doctor entered into an evening of play and entertainment with his children, Betty, age 9, Robert, age 6, and William, a little over two years of age. The children have since told of occurrences at home which indicate that not all was well with their father, though they thought nothing of it then. The doctor had groaned twice or three times during the evening and once used his stethoscope to study his heart action. With the children away in bed he announced that he was going to his office to look after the furnace fire, urged them not to be afraid and that their mother would be home very soon. His leaving in this manner was not at all unusual, but there is the chance that, while he did have his furnace to look after, he was urged to leave more for the reason that he desired to get to his office where he could obtain some stimulant for the heart. All that is known of that walk from home to his office a distance of less than three blocks, has been written.

It is difficult to suggest another of this community whose death might bring as deep a sorrow as fell over the people when the word that Dr. Brimi was dead was drifted about. For twenty-seven years he has been a constant resident of Cooperstown, a fine character respected and loved on every hand. And then, carried away as he was, without a word of warning, with only forty-seven years of life behind him and the best part of his life before him, was a visitation such as the community never before has known. In many a home, not alone his own, men and women wept. And with them the children were stilled. Here was a death that even the children observed in more than the casual way. Here was a death which was a severe and personal loss to hundreds. Twenty-seven years of activity as a citizen and as a doctor had not, then, been wasted years, but years in which he had none much to serve, ease and make happy those with whom he came in contact. Words do not respond at an hour like this to give expression to the true feeling of the whole community, - one of sympathy to the wife and children in their loss and of realization that we have all lost heavily in this passing.

Carl Linneaus Brimi was born at Eau Clare, Wisconsin, on April 9, 1876, a son of Mr. and Mrs. Sever Brimi. At Eau Clare he attended the grade schools and high school, but did not finish the high school work before entering Rush Medical College, Chicago, to study for the career which was to be his. He graduated from that college in 1897, following which he spent several months as an intern there.

In January following the year of his graduation, he came to Cooperstown and established himself in his profession. That and the several years which followed did not hold for him in his work the conveniences which are available today. It was in those years that the life of a country doctor called for the greatest sacrifices from the man. Those sacrifices Dr. Brimi made. Long hours on the prairie, in bitter cold, behind a team of horses, with surroundings all strange, were only a few of the discomforts which he had to encounter. From the very time of his establishing here he has been recognized as an able physician, and there are hundreds of homes which have been made the happier in dark hours through the confidence inspired in the thought “Brimi is here.” His work had won him a very fine practice.

On June 28, 1904, Dr. Brimi was married to Miss Elizabeth Ann Manke, who had been in Cooperstown several years. To this union the three children, who have been named in an earlier paragraph, were born. The family was a great delight to the doctor, and the hours with his children were daily looked forward to by him. In this case Death robs a home of a parent who was very much a part of the life of each occupant of that home, and seems to rob them at an hour when he was most needed.

During the recent world war Dr. Brimi offered his services to the government and was stationed at Fort Riley and Camp Dodge.