

Edward B. Thorpe

(- 16 Aug 1931)

Thorpe, Edward. Suddenly, on August 16, 1931, at Chesapeake Beach, Md., Edward, son of the late John T. and Elizabeth Thorpe. Funeral from the Deal funeral home, 816 H st. n.e., on Wednesday, August 19, at 11 a.m. Interment Congressional Cemetery.

The Evening Star, August 17, 1931, p. 18

Two Men Drown As Rescuers Fail Mechanic Falls or Was Pushed From Pier – Janitor, Wadding, Steps Into Deep Hole

Two Washington men were drowned at nearby Maryland resorts yesterday while seeking recreation and relief from the heat.

Edward Thorpe, 43, of 919 Seventh street northeast, a mechanic for Barber & Ross, lost his life when he either fell or was accidentally pushed from a pier at Chesapeake Beach.

Clyde George Miller, 36, of 2959 Mills avenue northeast, a janitor at the Woodridge postal substation, stepped into a deep hole while wading in the West River, near Idlewilde, and was dead before friends could reach him. Death was superinduced by a heart attack, physicians said.

Thorpe, while fishing, had clambered under the guard rail of a partially dismantled pier. Speculators were uncertain whether Thorpe, sitting on the extreme edge of the pier, lost his balance and tumbled into the water, or was brushed from his seat by others on the pier.

Rescue Attempt Fails

More than 100 persons saw an unidentified bystander make a gallant but futile attempt to rescue the drowning man. Hearing Thorpe's cries for help, the man ran to the pier edge and dived into the water, but struck an old wharf piling under the surface.

The would-be rescuer, severely cut about the chest, then was unable to effect the rescue. Thorpe's body was finally recovered by Capt. Noah Hazzard, whose houseboat was anchored near the scene.

Capt. Hazzard succeeded in hooking Thorpe's clothing with a small anchor. He pulled the body into his rowboat and took it ashore. Artificial respiration was administered for 20 minutes without success.

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