

# City Suffers Great Loss in Death of Harvey Feldmeier

## USEFUL CITIZEN VICTIM OF HEART ATTACK AT TROY.

**Taken Ill on Street and Expired in Nearby Restaurant Early Last Evening—Chief Engineer of Cherry-Burrell Corporation and Prominent Member of Board of Public Works Was in Capital District on Business When Fatally Stricken—Had Suffered From Heart Disease for Some Time—Died in City Where He Studied Engineering as Student at R. P. I.—Came Here to Work on a River Project and Shortly Thereafter Was Employed by Late D. H. Burrell—Native of Brooklyn and a Man of Unusual Intellectual Attainments—Was Accomplished as Linguist.**

From out of the streets and byways of Little Falls, where he was long a familiar figure, and into that far country beyond the last horizon, where the goodness and the greatness that he exemplified receive their eternal reward, has gone an unselfish, modest, useful, brilliant man, who typified the best in culture and in citizenship. Harvey Feldmeier is dead!

Harvey Feldmeier is dead. The stunning effect of the news received last night from Troy, scene of the scholastic attainments of his younger days, where he dropped dead from an attack of heart disease, made it the more difficult today for a mourning city to properly evaluate the worth and usefulness of the life so suddenly closed and the extent of the loss to the community which he served faithfully and well, both as private citizen and public official. His passing leaves a void that cannot easily be filled, but the memory of him will linger to inspire all who recognize and appreciate the kingly qualities of a true gentleman.

### Details of Sudden Death.

It was a strange coincidence that death reached out for Mr. Feldmeier in the city where, in his youth, he first attracted attention by his ability as a student at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. He went to Albany and Troy on business yesterday afternoon, making the trip by train. In Albany he visited one of the state departments, and after leaving that city went to Troy. Taken ill on the street, he walked into Gainor's grill on Broadway, near the New York Central station, and sat down. He asked for a glass of water, which was served him. Suddenly, Mr. Feldmeier collapsed in his seat. A doctor was hurriedly summoned but the soul had already taken flight and medical aid was of no avail. Coroner Walter E. Healey was notified and had the body taken to the Leahy & Healey funeral parlors, 371 Fourth street, Troy, where an autopsy was performed by Drs. Theodore N. Klessenweiter and John P. Jaffarian. This revealed that death was due to chronic myocarditis. Coroner Healey notified Mrs.

Feldmeier of her husband's death.

Altho Mr. Feldmeier had suffered from heart disease for some time—he had a severe attack a week or so ago and was laid up a couple of days—the fact that he was about the city yesterday and at his office at the Cherry-Burrell plant made it the more difficult for local residents to believe the news, as it spread around town that he had been fatally stricken. The Troy authorities identified him by his automobile license, which was in his pocket. This morning, Undertaker Calvin Newitt went to Troy to claim the body.

### Native of Brooklyn.

Harvey Feldmeier filled a large place in the industrial and public life of Little Falls for many years. His engineering talent and inventive genius gained for him the position of chief engineer of the Cherry-Burrell corporation and 56 patents awarded by the United States government in his name. He was a native of Brooklyn, son of the late Max and Elvire D'Asnoy Feldmeier. He was born August 27, 1871, and graduated from Brooklyn Technical institute in the class of 1890, with the degree of B. S. He then entered Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute at Troy, where he received his degree as civil engineer in 1892. He was a member of the college fraternity of Delta Kappa Epsilon and of the Sigma Xi honorary society.

### How He Came to Little Falls.

After graduating from R. P. I., Mr. Feldmeier received a position with the state of New York as an engineer and was given charge of building the dam across the Mohawk river in the western part of the city.

At about that time the late David H. Burrell was looking for a capable young engineer and asked Palmer C. Ricketts, the president of R. P. I., to recommend a man to him for such a position. Mr. Ricketts had been impressed by the ability of Mr. Feldmeier and advised Mr. Burrell to engage him. So it was, that the young engineer who originally came here on what he thought to be a temporary job became a resident of Little Falls, and the entire community was the gainer thereby.

### Ranked High as Engineer.

Mr. Feldmeier went to work for D. H. Burrell & Company in December, 1892, and devoted his great abilities and faithful interest continuously to the problems and the advancement of the business and the dairy industry since that time. When D. H. Burrell & Company merged with other companies, Mr. Feldmeier was made chief engineer of the Cherry-Burrell corporation. In his death, the dairy industry and the Cherry-Burrell corporation lose an advisor of marked genius and inventive ability; one of the ablest engineers in the dairy machine industry, an expert who was widely known in this country and abroad and the benefit of whose advice and experience was sought by many. The

community benefited from Mr. Feldmeier's engineering genius and experience, for he gave generously of his time as a member of the board of public works, in which he had served continuously since 1912. He was always devoted to promoting the best interests of the city, and it is significant that, on his ill-fated trip yesterday, he had in mind the municipality's welfare and stopped at the state highway department in Albany to inquire as to the progress being made with plans for the new highway to be constructed as an easterly approach for route 5 to the city. He is also said to have consulted a doctor in Albany relative to his heart condition.

### Was Honored by Democrat Party.

Mr. Feldmeier was a Democrat in politics but never sought elective office. However, he was alternate delegate to the Democrat national convention in Baltimore in 1912, and alternate delegate to the national convention of the party in Houston, Texas, in 1928, from the 33d congressional district. He was also one of the presidential electors in 1928.

Deceased was a commissioner of the General Herkimer home, a position to which he was appointed in 1931 by Governor Roosevelt. He was a member of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, the Rensselaer Society of Engineers and several social clubs.

### Accomplished as Linguist.

Altho a man of marked mental accomplishments and a keen student in various fields of knowledge all his life, Harvey Feldmeier was a humble and self-effacing man who never sought the limelight. The high and the low alike found him always modest, gracious and kind, with a friendly word and a pleasant smile for all who came his way. One of the outstanding characteristics of the man was his broad spirit of tolerance, respect for and understanding of the rights of others. He was truly Democratic in his attitude and outlook, entirely free from the prejudices and the conceits that operate with corroding effect upon smaller minds. He reached out constantly for knowledge and, in a minute like his, knowledge ripened readily into the richness of wisdom. Mr. Feldmeier was probably the most accomplished linguist in the city, having mastered several languages, which he spoke fluently.

### Was Twice Married.

Mr. Feldmeier was twice married, his first wife being Miss Helen Mitchell of Little Falls, who died many years ago. In 1915, he married Miss Lela B. Lumley of Utica, who survives with four children, Allan, Betty Jane, Robert Harvey and Edward Burrell Feldmeier. Allan graduated from the local high school last June and was president of his class. Only a few days ago he left town to enter a prep school in Connecticut. Friends left last night to notify him of the tragedy that had cast its shadow over the household and bring him back for the funeral. Deceased is also survived by a sister, Miss Rhoda M. Feldmeier of Utica, and a nephew, Herbert A. Feldmeier, of Sayville, L. I.

The funeral will probably be held on Monday morning, but the arrangements are not yet complete. Friends are requested to omit flowers.