

A Friend of the Boys.

"Carl B. Kern sought no greater honor than to be accounted worthy the friendship of the hundreds of young fellows who were under his personal care and attention in the boys' department of the Y.M.C.A.

"Carl Kern built wisely in Dayton. The things he started here with the boys will go on and the policies he followed will be held worthy of emulation by those who follow him.

"Camp Ozone, at Ft. Ancient, where hundreds of these full-of-life young chaps were accustomed to spend their vacation days, will stand as a permanent memorial to the aggressive activities of Mr. Kern. Many important innovations in the boys' department of the Y.M.C.A. bear testimony of his efficiency and potential interest in the service.

"Any men whose work is among young men and wide-awake boys bears a tremendous responsibility, and the reward for a successful service is great.

"And so today the boys of the Y.M.C.A. are grieving because one of their number has gone away. It will be a rather difficult task to fill the vacancy that Carl Kern's death has created. His loss is a personal one in hundreds of Dayton homes."

- Editorial, *Dayton Daily News*, June 4, 1917

Resolution, Y.M.C.A. Board of Trustees

"The sudden death of Mr. Carl B. Kern on June 3, 1917, brings to every officer and member of the Dayton Young Men's Christian association an overwhelming sense of sorrow and loss which no words can adequately express. The trustees, however, desire to record, even though imperfectly, their appreciation of the manly Christian character of Mr. Kern and his remarkable work for the boys and young men of Dayton and the entire country.

"Eight years ago Mr. Kern came to Dayton to take charge of the boys' department of our association. He came with a record of earnest endeavor and practical Christian activity, giving us high hopes for the future. The work done was far beyond our anticipation.

"From the beginning he displayed especial executive ability, thorough understanding of the plans and scope of work for boys, and an unusual familiarity with all methods of enlisting friends and helpers for boys who needed assistance. The result of this understanding of the calling to which he had devoted his life was a large membership of boys and an unusual co-operation of all forces for good in our city. Our enlarged boys' department, Camp Ozone, the Big Brother movement of the city and work among newsboys were all successful largely through his wise leadership.

"In life and character Mr. Kern was the ideal manly Christian whose every thought and act were to help others - especially the young lads of the city. Simple in manner, sincere in the Christian life, fully understanding boy character, a thorough but kind disciplinarian - he became the ideal of many a lad who will try to make the world better because of his inspiration, and the wise advisor of many a father who found in this man the helper he needed to win his own boys to truer life.

"Big in body, mind, courage and sympathy, he drew young boys to him and then retained their loyal love and admiration as they grew older and passed out of his immediate leadership. His love of outdoor life endeared him to the heart of every boy. As expressed by a friend, 'the boys followed him with gladness, their faith in him never anything but strong, their love for the big director ever increasing.'

"The loss sustained by our association and by the entire city can never be estimated. While we cannot understand the Providence of God which deprives us of such leadership, we can and will seek to continue the work to which he was so devoted with increasing earnestness and fuller devotion.

"In behalf of the officers of this association with whom he worked so steadily and effectively, of the young men of our city among whom he was a leader, of the thousands of boys whose lives he has influenced, and of the many homes which will be darkened today because of his loss - in behalf of the entire city and the association brotherhood - we extend to Mrs. Kern our deepest sympathy, praying that God, who has led her and her husband through years of service, will give her strength in this time of extreme need, bringing to her the fulfillment of every promise to those who trust Him. To Mrs. Kern's family we bring our sincere condolence, recalling 'the loyal loving life of their son and brother.'

"We call the boys and young men of our city to a new effort to continue the work their friend and ours had so firmly built, assured that in this unselfish service for God and our fellowmen they may erect the truest monument to his memory, and so give long life and influence to the work he did among men.

"Resolved. That this minute be spread upon the records of the association and be sent to Mrs. Kern and to the family.

"O.J. BARD, E.L. SHUEY, Committee."

- as reprinted in the Dayton newspapers; June, 1917

President's Tribute

George B. Smith, president of the Y.M.C.A., when notified Mr. Kern had died said: "Dayton has lost an exceptionally competent boys secretary, known throughout the country among Y.M.C.A.'s for his work. He was beloved by all the boys of the city and could exert a wonderful influence over them for good. He had a kindly disposition and his love for the outdoor life and for boys' sports endeared him to the heart of every boy that knew him.

"His personal life was an inspiration and his example for good will be missed by every one. It will be almost impossible to fill his place in the boy's life of Dayton. He was in reality a 'big brother' to the boys of this city. The association and boys alike have met the loss of a true and valuable friend."

An Ideal Gone

"I am too heart broken to attempt any adequate expression of what this loss means to me," said H.D. Dickson, general secretary of the Y.M.C.A., when informed of Mr. Kern's death.

"What have the boys of Dayton lost in the death of Kern, you ask? They have lost the biggest embodiment of an ideal the boys of this city have ever seen. He was big in body, mind, courage and sympathy. He had a ruggedness of temperament that always drew boys to him and their admiration only deepened as they came to manhood. He was a lion of a man with the unspoiled heart of a boy. He gave one the feeling of a mountain stream, fresh and clear; his greatest sorrows were over boys, here and there, that disappointed his ideals. His absorbing ambition was to have all the boys in Dayton, rich and poor alike, 'come clean.' He died in the harness, planning and working for the summer camp, that has come to be an expression for hundreds of boys of his ideals of Christian manliness and service...."

Dayton's Loss of a Real Man.

"There are few homes today - homes with little boys in them - that do not grieve for the passing away of Carl B. Kern, director of the boys' department of the Young Men's Christian association. The loss of this man, who stood head and shoulders above thousands of his fellows as a real man can not now be estimated. It is too soon for that, albeit the community already had been able to appreciate just what was his influence for good with the growing boys, the future citizens of Dayton.

"Taken in the prime of his manhood, in the prime of his ambitious undertakings, in the prime of his service to Dayton, at a time when hundreds of his little friends found in him a teacher, a friend and big brother, he has left a vacancy that will be hard to fill. It can not be filled in the hearts of his friends and his loved ones, nor will it be filled just as he filled it in the great organization of which he was such a virile, inspiring spirit. The Young Men's Christian association will feel that for a long time.

"Carl B. Kern was engaging to a point that made it possible for him to attract to him hundreds of boys who found in his department a guide such as every mother might choose for her son. And the boys followed him with gladness, their faith in him never anything but strong, their love for the big director ever increasing. He was with them heart and soul and they with him. In the big outdoors which he loved so well he camped with them, became a boy again and entered into the spirit of their frolics. Too, he made their tasks a sport and they loved him for that though his discipline was rigid. Gently but firmly he led them on the right way, laid the foundation for manliness in his charges, accomplished many a thing that fathers and mothers had failed to accomplish, thus endearing himself to these same fathers and mothers who were proud to have their sons follow him.

"In all things Carl B. Kern was big. There was nothing of littleness about him. He was a man for boys to love and follow...."