

Jack Waitman's Funeral Largest In Town's History

Knights of the Ku Klux Klan in Charge of the Ceremonies

4 - 1925
Exceeding in joint attendance and ceremonial impressiveness any funeral ever witnessed in Wheatland, the last rites for Jack Waitman, prominent young Wheatland business man, battle scarred veteran of the World War and a member of the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan were held here Sunday afternoon, following his death the previous Thursday.

The funeral procession moved slowly forward from the Methodist church at three o'clock and when all cars bearing the mourners, Klansmen, service men and a host of friends had moved into line, the procession covered a distance of two miles or more. An almost endless stream of automobiles followed the hearse to the grave.

At the M. E. church, the largest religious edifice in the city, where services were conducted by Rev. Murphy, pastor of the Baptist church of Torrington, every seat was occupied, the entrance was jammed and a hundred or more people were unable to gain admittance. Some of these people remained in cars parked for blocks around the church in every direction while the services were in progress.

Knights of the Ku Klux Klan to the number of 130 from this and adjoining communities, wearing full regalia, were in charge of the ceremonies at the church. At the cemetery, Jack's buddies who saw service in the World War with him dropped the final curtain over the remains of their friend and comrade as a firing squad saluted and Marvin Jones sounded "taps" on his trumpet as the flag-draped casket was lowered in the grave.

With the passing of Jack Waitman, another veteran of Chateau Thierry, the village in France at the edge of which American troops had their first taste of terrific warfare, was listed among the "missing". Jack was gassed during the memorable engagement. He was one of the first four men of Wheatland to enlist for service in the World War.