

17-YEAR-OLD YOUTH TAKES HIS OWN LIFE

Winnifred Richeson, State Center,
Kills Self With Rifle

Winnifred A. Richeson, 17-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. D. W. Richeson, who live on a farm four and one-half miles south of State Center and three miles north of Rhodes, killed himself with a short .22 calibre rifle shortly before noon Sunday in the basement of the Richeson home and in the next room to that in which his parents were working.

Dr. Rodney C. Wells, county coroner, and Sheriff C. E. Wicklund, who investigated the shooting, said that it was clearly a case of suicide and that no inquest would be held.

No reason could be assigned for the lad's act, the coroner said. He was in good health and apparently had not been despondent, his parents told the officers. He left no note and he died within a few seconds after the shooting, without being able to speak.

Mr. and Mrs. Richeson were sorting some jars in the fruit cellar of the basement, which has been fixed up so that the family could live there in hot weather. The boy was in the next room, in which is a cot. Suddenly the parents heard a muffled shot and ran in to find their son fatally wounded. The rifle was an old-fashioned, short weapon and the boy was slumped over on the cot, the gun beneath the quilt. He was shot near the heart and gasped only once or twice after his parents reached the room.

Winnifred Richeson was born at Rhodes, Jan. 26, 1920. Besides his parents he is survived by two brothers, Denzal and Rodney, both at home, and two sisters, Mrs. Flossie Girtom of Vancleve, and Mrs. Catherine Logsdon of Des Moines.

The body was taken to the Wenzel funeral home at State Center. Funeral services will be held at 2 p. m. Wednesday at the home and at 2:30 at the Methodist Episcopal church at Rhodes.