

Minard Died Doing Job He Liked Best

By Al Frisbie

Even as a Technical High School student Larry Dean Minard used to talk about how one day he might become a policeman.

But the son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles B. Minard had other interests, too, his younger brother, Terry, recalled Monday.

Terry, 25, of 1680 Whitmore Street, told how Larry had gone to Sherman Grade School, how the family had lived at 1428 Jaynes Street, and how he and Larry spent a lot of their boyhood years fishing and hunting and swimming. "We both loved the outdoors," he said.

Their father was a foreman at the Omaha Steel Works, and the family included Mrs. Minard, a sister, Rosalinda, and two stepbrothers, Charles and Theodore. Both parents are now dead.

Larry was graduated from Sherman School's eighth grade in spring of 1954 and the next fall enrolled at Tech.

'Swell Young Man'

Tech Principal Carl Palmquist remembers him as a "good average boy and a real swell young man."

Larry got average grades at Tech and above average marks in citizenship. He specialized in woodworking although he took time out to participate on the school swim team.

His woodworking instructor was Walter Erdkamp, now state director of trade and industrial education.

"Larry was a terrific young man," Erdkamp said Monday, "and as I recall he was a good craftsman. I know he reached the point where we got him a job as a building apprentice."

Erdkamp also remembered that Larry "had a lot of leadership abilities and even then was all for law and order."

"When I had to leave class, he was one of the people who was in charge," Erdkamp said. "We had a self-government understanding in which the boys were on their honor and pretty much policed themselves. It worked very well and Larry was one of the reasons. He was one of our better boys. He really wanted to learn and he helped maintain order."

Becomes Family Man

While he was at Tech, Larry met another young student named Karen Valien, who lived at 2115 Browne Street. They began dating and by the time he was graduated in June, 1958, they were serious about each other.

Karen and Larry were mar-

ried Dec. 3, 1958, and it was about that time that he entered the Navy.

"He enlisted because he wanted to be in the Navy," said Terry, himself a Navy veteran.

Larry served four years, part of the time as a machinist mate aboard the USS Frontier, a cargo ship which spent much of its time in the Pacific around Japan and the Philippines.

As time passed, Larry's responsibilities grew. Carol Sue, his first child, was born a year after he was married. Larry Dean Minard, Jr., was born in 1961 and Claudia Mae arrived in 1962, the year he returned to civilian life.

Terry remembers that when Larry returned from Navy duty, he was determined to become a policeman.

Joined Force in 1963

Terry said his brother worked for a time at the Omaha Works of Western Electric Co. while waiting his chance to become a police officer.

The chance came on Feb. 1, 1963, the day he joined the Omaha force. Two years after he became a policeman, the Minards had their fourth child, Charlotte. A year later they had another boy. They named him Birlin—after Larry's father.

Monday, Terry talked about Larry and his hopes for the children.

"He wanted the kids to grow up to respect the law," he said. "That was natural—he was a policeman. He wanted them to finish high school and—if possible—go on to college. Larry, Jr., has talked about wanting to be a policeman. I think that pleased Larry."

The family moved into its present house at 6775 Seward Street about two months ago. Sunday night, Larry Minard reported for work as usual at Police Headquarters. He was on the midnight to 8 a.m. shift.

Killed in Blast

Shortly after 2 a.m. this morning, Patrolman Minard was among eight policemen who entered a house at 2867 Ohio Street to investigate a report of a woman screaming for help. The house contained a booby-trapped suitcase. When the explosion occurred, Minard was closest to it. He was killed.

He died at age 29. Thursday he would have celebrated his thirtieth birthday.

Terry spoke quietly Monday of the shock and grief of the family.

"You just can't believe it," he said. "But Larry was police all the way. He loved the work. It was just something he wanted to do."