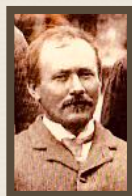




David Strehlow's mother, Edna Anna Plakner Strehlow (1915-1973); and his grandparents on his mother's side, William Plackner (1883-1937) and Anna Laura Anderson Plackner (1895-1954.)



David's great grandparents, Andrew Andersson Laukka (1872-1941) and Emma Christine Julin Laukka (1871-1959); Frank Henry Plackner Sr. (1858-1930) and Anna Dohnen Plackner (1859-1946.)



David's other great grandparents, Andreas Andrew Ruehling Jr. (1851-1917) and Margaretha Schlauderaff Ruehling (1857-1895); and great great grandfather, Johann Michael Plackner (1825-1904.)



David's great great grandparents include Gerhard Dohmen, born in 1831, and Margaretha Bruckschen Dohmen, born in 1830. The young adult is not noted; and Peter Erik Henricsson Julin (1831-1905) and Greta Ulrika Isaksdotter Bäck Julin (1833-1917.) The two children are not noted.



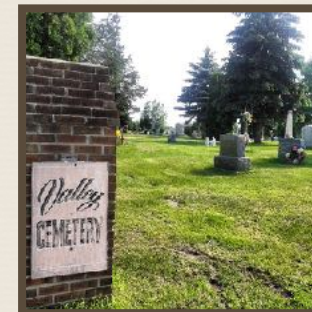
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## SHAKOPEE HERITAGE SOCIETY



# David J. Strehlow

1945-1959

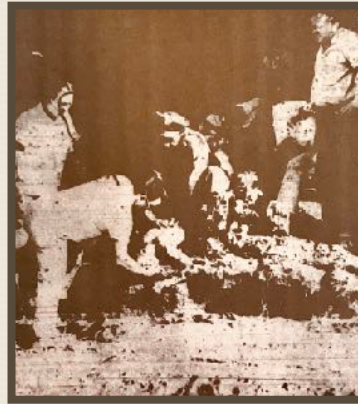




"I waded out and tried to grab David, but I couldn't hold him," said Mike Stephens, age 12, "I went back to shore, took off my pants, and then tried again, but he slipped away and started downstream."

With those words, Mike Stephens tearfully described the fatal moment when his pal, David J. Stehlow, drowned in the Minnesota River Monday afternoon, July 13, 1959, according to an article, *David Strehlow, 13, Drowns In River After Rescue Attempt Fails*, **Shakopee Valley News** on July 16, 1959.

David Strehlow and his friend, Mike Stephens, had spent the afternoon on Monday picking berries and shooting carp with bows and arrows in the Minnesota near Rahr Malting Company, according to *Minnesota River Claims Life of 13-Year-Old Near City Bridge*, **Shakopee Argus Tribune**, July 16, 1959. Before supper they headed home, stopping at the Holmes Street Bridge so that David could wash mud off his shoes. David waded into the seemingly shallow water there.



On left is the futile attempts to revive David Strehlow on the banks of the Minnesota River from a picture in the *Shakopee Valley News* on July 16, 1959. On right is the Holmes Street Bridge, near where David Strehlow died.



"He was just wading and went out...he went under...and it was terrible," Mike muttered to Police Chief Pat Thielen while attempts were being made to discover David's disappearing body about 20 minutes later. "When I looked up again he was under...bubbles were coming up. I couldn't see him anymore and I went for help."

According to the **Shakopee Argus Tribune**, a sobbing Mike Stephens went to a service station nearby to summoned help. Police and fire department rescue workers were called to the scene. A crowd was beginning to form on the bridge and along the bank.

"Shakopee firemen launched a boat and were dragging the area with hooks. Lazy bubbles scattered over the river appearing to indicate the likely spot. Yet, no one knew exactly where to dive in a desperate effort to save the boy....Firemen made sweeps in the immediate area and within minutes contacted the boy's body some 20-feet from the south bank." Though 20 minutes had elapsed, the firemen and volunteers at the scene worked feverishly applying artificial respiration attempting to keep life going or restore

it.

"David was taken through the thick river bank brush to the edge of Joe Kurver's garden where a respirator was employed, Father Martin Flemming arrived to pray over the youth shortly before Dr. B.F. Pearson pulled the blanket over the boy's head."

The funeral services for David J. Strehlow, 13 years old, was held at the St. John's Lutheran Church, with Reverend F.A. Meske officiating, according to *Last Rites Today for Strehlow Boy*, **Shakopee Valley News**, July 16, 1959.

David J. Strehlow was born on November 7, 1945, son of Harold Strehlow (1911–1989) and Edna Anna Plackner Strehlow (1915–1973.). David's grandparents were August Otto Strehlow Jr. (1882–1952) and Augusta Gussie Ruehling Strehlow (1888–1990.)

David J. Strehlow, who attended Shakopee public schools, was survived by his parents, and two sisters, Barbara and Nancy. The pallbearers were James Nolting, Stanley Stier, James Perry, Lance Raduenz, Mike Melchior, and James Zoschke.

David was buried at Valley Cemetery in Shakopee.