

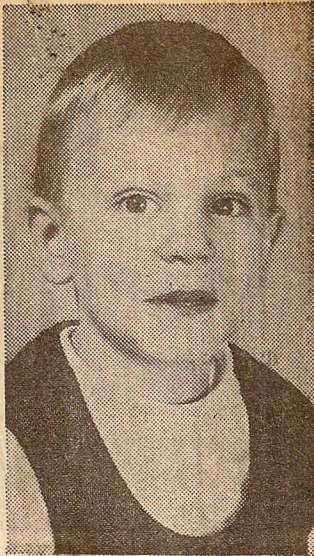
Alan Dickey Dies Of Rare Disease

Funeral services will be held today (Thursday) at 10 a.m. for Alan William Dickey, six-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Larry W. Dickey, Schooley's Mountain Road, Hackettstown, who died Monday, June 18, at Morristown Memorial Hospital of Reyes disease, a rare malady which followed a seemingly uneventful bout of chicken pox.

The Rev. Dr. Lowell M. Atkinson will officiate at the services at Trinity United Methodist Church and interment will be in the Hanover, N. J., Cemetery.

Dr. Susan Widrow of Hanover, the family's pediatrician for years, said Tuesday that an autopsy had confirmed the diagnosis of the killing disease. She had no statistics available, but said that the disease is "very unusual" and sometimes follows chicken pox or a viral infection. She said the syndrome is not contagious.

The boy's father who is an engineer with Bell Laboratories in Whippany, said that Alan had contracted chicken pox last week from his younger brothers, Brian David, four, and Kent, three. On Saturday evening, Mr. Dickey said, Alan was nauseated but was running no fever. During the night he moaned but was unable to



Alan William Dickey

speak and went into an apparent coma. The family called Hackettstown Community Hospital and were told that his symptoms sometimes follow chicken pox. The family was advised to contact the boy's pediatrician, Dr. Susan Widrow, who agreed to meet them at the Morristown Hospital. Neurological specialists were consulted and phone calls were made to the Contagious Disease Center in Atlanta, the Boston Medical Center and Yale University Medical for advice as to treatment. Mr. Dickey said that a total blood transfusion was considered, but the specialists advised against the procedure. An encephalogram and other tests were made and Mr. Dickey stated that he was told his son might be suffering from encephalitis. The boy was fed intravenously but never regained consciousness.

"Alan was always a happy, healthy, active boy who loved to sing and generally enjoyed life," his father commented. "One of his most recent enjoyable experiences was the little Memorial Day parade in Hackettstown and he waved to Mayor Hobokan."

Alan attended Flocktown Elementary School last year and had spent the two previous years at Vally Brook Academy in Long Valley.

Born in Morristown Memorial Hospital on May 2, 1967, while his family was living in Hanover, Alan is survived by his parents, his two brothers, his maternal grandmother, Mrs. Edith Durham of East Baldwin Street, Hackettstown; and his paternal grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Hartie Dickey of Belgrade, Mo.

Star-Gazette,
June 23, 1973

OBITUARY: Alan Dickey
Date of Death,
June 18, 1973