

Dr. Don Foote Dies of Cardiac Arrest After Car Wreck Injuries

Don Charles Foote, 37, died of cardiac arrest last Saturday afternoon at the Fairbanks Community Hospital.

Dr. Foote had been hospitalized on the preceding Thursday after suffering a crushed chest in an automobile head-on collision with a State Trooper's patrol car.

Foote had been driving a late model Volkswagon accompanied by three passengers when the

mishap occurred in the early morning hours of Thursday. The accident happened on "extremely icy" road according to the State Trooper James J. Hull who was the driver of the patrol car.

Injured were James Babb, his wife Bonnie, who suffered a broken pelvis, and Donald Prozesky. Trooper Hull suffered a chipped bone on his knee.

Dr. Foote, whose specialty was the study of human geo-

graphy, was well known at the village of Point Hope where he and his wife Berit lived for two years.

The Footes lived like the Point Hope Eskimos by hunting and fishing. Dr. Foote even got his own dogteam and hunted caribou with it. The couple fished through the sea ice for tomcod, fished for grayling up the Kukpuk River.

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Dr. Don Foote . .

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Berit Foote learned to make parkas and mukluks having learned the art from the local Eskimo women. She then made the winter wear for her husband and for herself.

Don Charles Foote came to the Point Hope area back around 1959 having been employed by the Atomic Energy Commission when that agency was planning to detonate a series of nuclear blasts at Cape Thompson, 30 miles south of Point Hope, to create a harbor.

Foote was a member of a team of scientists doing environmental reserrch around the Cape Thompson area.

"My job was to study the life and means at Point Hope," he once said. "That meant I counted families and their members, number of dogs, how many windows each house had and so on."

Dr. Foote said that he later lost taste for the job when he realized that some harm might result from the Cape Thompson nuclear blasts. He was later relieved of his job by the AEC.

That was the time he decided to leave Point Hope.

At the time of his death, Foote was a visiting associate professor from McGill University in Montreal and had been working with the Institute of Social and Economic Government Research at the University of Alaska. He held a PhD degree in geography.

He is survived by his wife Berit and a young son, Paul, his mother, Mrs. Lester H. Gale, and a brother, Joe.

Mrs. Foote arrived from Montreal this week to arrange for the funeral.