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Rev. Morris Coers Dies, Began Garden of Hope

The Rev. Morris Coers, 52, died in his sleep yesterday at his home, 2223 Eastern avenue, Covington.

He was widely known in Greater Cincinnati for his sermons on the radio and as the founder of The Garden of Hope in Covington.

Mr. Coers had retired for a nap yesterday afternoon and was found dead by his wife, Vernice, when she went to awaken him.

Mrs. Coers called the Covington Life Squad, while they worked for more than two hours trying to revive him a crowd of his parishoners gathered outside and prayed for him.

HE DEVOTED more than four years to raising funds and obtaining shrubs and other decorations for his Garden of Hope. It cost \$100,000.

In it is a replica of the tomb of Christ, of the carpenter shop of Joseph, and a small chapel, called the Chapel of Dreams, in which some 60 marriages have been performed.

It is located on a 2½-acre tract atop a high bluff near Edgecliffe road, overlooking the Ohio River.

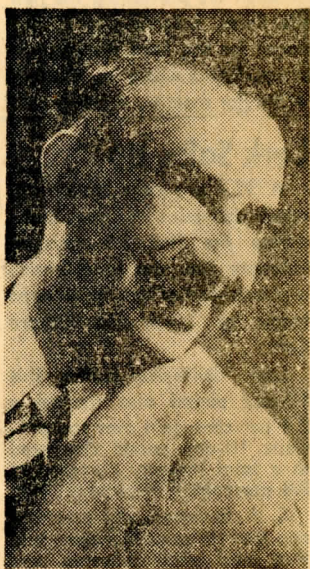
It was opened on Palm Sunday, 1958, and Mr. Coers had planned an elaborate, formal dedication ceremony for this Easter Sunday, April 17.

Of the Garden of Hope, he said:

"MILLIONS have visited the Holy Land and the tomb there but many millions more never had the opportunity. Now, in the heart of the mid-west, there will be an exact copy of the tomb—free to all who want to come and experience it."

Mr. Coers was born in Shelbyville, Ind. He received his ministerial training at the Moody Bible Institute in Chicago and held pastorates in Shelbyville and Bluffton, Ind., and Jackson, Mich. He has been pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church, Covington, since 1945.

During his early years in



THE REV. MORRIS COERS
... heart attack victim

the ministry while he held pastorates in Indiana, Mr. Coers conducted funeral services for John Dillinger, the notorious bank bandit and killer of the 1930s.

Dillinger was slain by FBI agents under Melvin Purvis on July 23, 1934.

He served in the Indiana Legislature in the 1931 and 1933 sessions.

IN WORLD WAR II he was a field director for the Red Cross and served under Gen. Mark Clark in the invasion of Sicily.

Besides his wife, he leaves a son, Michael; his mother, Mrs. Bertha Coers, Anderson, Ind.; a sister, Mrs. Esther Saunders, Anderson, Ind., and a brother, Kenneth Coers, Lafayette, Ind.

Death apparently was caused by a heart attack.