

FULL \$125 PENSION AWARDED TO WIDOW OF DROWNED POLICEMAN

Judge Joseph Graber of Superior court yesterday ordered the police pension board to pay a full widow's pension of \$125 monthly to Mrs. Florence Byrnes, 8059 Saginaw av., instead of the \$24 monthly she has received since the death of her husband, Detective Frank Byrnes, on May 25, 1945.

Byrnes drowned in Lake Michigan off 78th st. He and August Borda, 60, retired fire department captain, had been fishing and their boat capsized. Borda, unable to swim, held to the boat while Byrnes attempted to swim to a breakwater. Byrnes drowned, and Borda later was rescued.

Judge Graber held Byrnes died in line of duty, contending a policeman is on duty 24 hours a day and that Byrnes was performing his duty as a policeman when he tried to reach shore to obtain aid for Borda. Thus Mrs. Byrnes is entitled to the \$125 a month paid widows of policemen killed in line of duty, Graber said. The ruling was made retroactive to Byrnes' death, and thus she is to receive \$4,444 additional for the period since his death.