

## **Willard "Teddy" Zurbuchen**

**Aug. 15, 1929 – July 25, 1949**

### **Zurbuchen in Com Field Tuesday P.M.**

#### **Youth Missing from Home Since Early Monday; Rites Thursday**

Monticello and the surrounding community was plunged into the depths of sadness Tuesday afternoon when the body of Willard "Teddy" Zurbuchen was found by plane in a corn field on the John Elmer farm in the north section of the village.

The 19 year-old youth had been missing from the home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ted Zurbuchen, since about 1:20 Monday morning. His father, a garage owner here, was called out to the scene of an automobile wreck at that time and discovered that his son was gone from his room, although there was evidence that he had been home earlier.

Mr. Zurbuchen reported his son disappearance to Green County Sheriff Matt Solbraa at about 9 o'clock Monday morning. Their anxiety increasing hourly when the young man failed to return home by Monday evening, the Zurbuchen's feared that tragedy may have struck.

A blood hound, owned by Ray Case, Belleville, was brought in to begin a search Tuesday morning. Later a plane of the sheriff's air patrol, piloted by Charles Smith, Monroe, began a search of the community. Four law enforcement cars blocked off an area to enable the plane to swoop near the ground. The pilot sighted the body of the youth at 12:45 Tuesday afternoon. A .22 calibre rifle lay side of the body. Authorities were unable to uncover any evidence of foul play. According to his parents, "Teddy" showed no evidence of being dejected during the days preceding his death.

Aiding in the search, in addition to Mr. Smith and Mr. Case, were Sheriff Solbraa, Undersheriff Wilbur E. Deininger, and Highway Patrolmen George Armstrong and Tom Richards. County Coroner Herman Stuessy and Dist. Attorney Rodney Kittleson were summoned after the body was found.

The youth was shot through the apex of the heart. He was found only about two blocks from the Zurbuchen home.

Authorities believed that "Teddy" died early Monday morning after leaving the Zurbuchen residence.

Herbert J. Bolliger, police photographer was on the scene taking pictures and fingerprints.

#### **Popular Young Man**

He was born Aug. 15, 1929, in Monroe, the son of Ted and Merlee Pickett Zurbuchen. He graduated from the Monticello high school in May, 1948. He was prominent in athletics, especially basketball, and was a freshman member of the championship Monticello team which advanced to the sectional cage tournament in Madison in 1945. He had been co-captain and a member of the basketball squads during his four years in high school. When a junior he was selected as high school prom king.

In addition to being proficient in basketball, he also was a member of the baseball and volley ball teams. After graduating he was employed by the Illinois Central railroad and more recently worked for the Arn & Zweifel Cheese Co.

He was confirmed at the Zwingli Evangelical and Reformed church in 1944,

His untimely death came as a severe shock to his many friends and acquaintances in the community, all of whom were deeply grieved when discovery of his lifeless body was made known.

Surviving, in addition to his parents, are a younger brother, Zane, at home, and his paternal grandmother, Mrs. Barbara Zurbuchen, Verona. He was preceded in death by a sister in September, 1931.

#### **Funeral Thursday**

Funeral services will be held at 2 this (Thursday) afternoon at the Zwingli Evangelical and Reformed church. The Rev. A R. Achtemeier, church pastor, will officiate, and burial will be in the Swiss Reformed church cemetery, New Glarus.

Friends may call at the Voegeli funeral home until noon Thursday, when the body will be taken to the church.

Pallbearers will be Karl Durst, Otto Hess, Charles Rolph, Jr., Ivan Schenk, Howard Voegeli, Reynold Zeller, Junior Zentner, and Dean Zimmerman.