

Otto Gerber

January 2, 1912 – October 1933

Funeral Services For Otto Gerber Held on Saturday Victim of Auto Mishap; Driver Held Under \$10,000 Bond

Funeral services for Otto Gerber, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ulrich Gerber, Washington township, who died in a hospital at Bloomington, Illinois, on Wednesday morning of last week as the result of injuries he sustained when struck by a hit-and-run auto driver while riding a bicycle on a highway near that city, were held Saturday afternoon at 1:30 in the Gerber home and at 2 in the Reformed church. Rev. A. Muehlmeier conducted the last rites in the presence of a large concourse of relatives and friends of the bereaved family. Conspicuous among the silent tributes was a large floral piece from the business men of the village.

The deceased was born in Monroe on January 2, 1912, and was therefore in his 22nd year at the time of his tragic ending. The family moved to their present home in Washington township thirteen years ago, and the deceased had always lived at home and assisted his father with the farm work until June of this year, when he secured employment on a farm near Bloomington, Ill.

Besides his parents, he is survived by one sister, Mrs. John Saxer, Monroe, and one brother, Werner, at home. One sister preceded him in death.

The alleged driver of the car which caused the death of the unfortunate boy has been bound to the grand jury under bond of \$10,000, according to an article appearing in the Bloomington Daily Pantagraph, which follows:

Death at 6 a. m. Wednesday of Otto Gerber, 21, cyclist struck Sunday afternoon by a hit-run motorist west of the city on route 122, resulted in filing of an involuntary manslaughter charge against Herschel A. Herkless, 820 West Jefferson street, alleged driver of the automobile,

“We, the jury,” read the verdict of an inquest conducted Wednesday afternoon at the courthouse by Coroner Lloyd G. Shoemaker, “find from the evidence that Otto Gerber came to his death from a skull fracture received from being thrown from his bicycle on route 122 west of Bloomington, Ill., after being accidentally hit by an automobile owned and driven by Herschel A. Herkless.

“We recommend” the verdict further stated, “that Herschel A. Herkless be held to the grand jury for leaving the scene of the accident and for careless driving; also, we further recommend an investigation of the whole case be made by the grand jury.”

Mr. Herkless, arrested Tuesday morning by county and city authorities, was originally charged with assault with a deadly weapon and remanded to the county jail in default of \$5,000 bond. State’s Attorney Jesse Willis Wednesday filed the new charge—supplanting the original one—and Justice of the Peace Rolla Jones released Mr. Herkless under \$10,000 bond after binding him to the grand jury.

Following the accident, the victim was unconscious and remained so up to the time of his death at St. Joseph’s hospital.