

Kurtis Wayne Johnson
March 13, 1957 – June 1959
Monticello Boy Killed by Tractor
Kurtis Johnson Rites Tomorrow

A two-year-old rural Monticello boy toddled to his father's tractor Saturday night, started the engine and was killed when the vehicle ran over him.

Kurtis Wayne Johnson, son of Kenneth A. and Bertha Graber Johnson, Route 1, Monticello, was pronounced dead upon arrival at St. Clare hospital at 7:15 p.m. Saturday.

The father said the child apparently started the tractor himself and fell off. He said the rear wheel of the vehicle ran over the boy's head.

Mrs. Johnson said she was in the milk house with the children when she noticed Kurtis was missing. She said she went out to find him and discovered the accident. Her screams brought her husband and his brother from the barn.

Authorities said the tractor motor had stopped and the father had to move it from the boy's body. Johnson said the tractor was not running when he parked it near the barn and left the vehicle in gear. A wagon loaded with baled hay was attached to the vehicle.

Officers said the switch is a simple push-pull type and the starter is a short lever.

The tractor traveled 21 paces from where it was parked to where it stopped against the bank across the road between the house and the barn, officers said.

Coroner W. E. Deininger ruled the death accidental and said no inquest would be held. George Armstrong investigated for the sheriff's department.

The child was rushed to St. Clare hospital by Wagner ambulance.

The accident occurred on the Frank Loveland farm three miles north of Monroe.

Kurtis was born March 13, 1957, in St. Clare hospital, and survivors include his parents, a brother Keith, and a sister, Karen, both at home; his maternal grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Herman T. Graber, Route 2, Monticello, and the paternal grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Chester A. Johnson, Argyle.

Services will be held at 1:30 p.m. tomorrow in the Washington United Church of Christ, Rey. A. R. Achtemeier, pastor of the church, officiating. Burial will be in the church cemetery.