

John Zeller

March 21, 1901 – August 11, 1927

rites for accident victim

Remains of John Zeller Brought, From Chicago; Burial Monday

Funeral services for John Zeller, Jr., 26 years old, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Zeller, Sr., living northeast of Monticello, whose death resulted from injuries received in an automobile accident in Chicago late Thursday afternoon, were held Monday at 1:30 p. m. at the home and at 2 o'clock in the Reformed church. Burial was in Highland cemetery.

An unusually large crowd of relatives and friends attended the last rites which were conducted by the Rev. A. Muehlmeier, pastor of the church. Beautiful floral pieces were numerous.

Mr. Zeller's death occurred shortly before six o'clock Thursday evening, August 11, when he was on his way home from work in his Nash roadster. He was within a block and a half of the home of Raymond Daly, his partner in the ice and fuel business, where it was the custom to check-in at the end of each day.

It was at this point, the corner of 18th street and Harvey avenue in Berwyn, a Chicago suburb, that the accident happened. As John was traveling along the main street, a Berwyn merchant, driving a Rickenbacker sedan, shot in from a side street.

A crash was inevitable and Mr. Zeller, trying to avoid the collision, swung out to the side of the street, a wheel of the car striking against the curb. Almost simultaneously, the big Rickenbacker sedan, the driver of which made a futile attempt to prevent the mishap, struck the rear hub cap of the Nash roadster. The jolt was enough to send the roadster twirling over the curb and onto a lawn. The car turned over twice, coming to a stop on its wheels.

Mr. Zeller was still in the car the permanent top of which was badly shattered. The windshield was smashed and other damage inflicted. It was necessary to take away the remaining parts of the top to extricate him from the car. His skull was fractured and he died while being taken to the hospital,

An inquest was held Friday afternoon at 2 o'clock at which John Zeller, Sr., and Walter Zeller, father and brother of the accident victim, were in attendance. One version was that when the Nash struck the curb, Mr. Zeller's head was bumped against the top. This stunned him and he lost control of the car. The general opinion was that the Zellers have a clear case against the Berwyn merchant, who has a family of seven. It is understood no action is to be taken, however.

Born in 1901

The deceased was born in Spring Valley, near New Glarus, March 21, 1901, the son of Mr. and Mrs. John Zeller. He was baptized at New Glarus on April 16, 1901.

He lived in Spring Valley, where his father was engaged as cheesemaker, until 1910, when the entire family took a trip to the old, home in Switzerland. They returned in December of the same year and immediately took up residence on the Zeller farm, northeast of Monticello.

Mr. Zeller attended the catechetical class of the Reformed church in 1915 and 1916, and was confirmed on Palm Sunday, April 16, of the latter year. During his youth he attended the rural schools.

Following his confirmation he was employed for two years on the John Schuler farm, Washington township. Thereafter he assisted on his father's farm for several years.

In 1923 Mr. Zeller went to Chicago where he was employed for nearly four years by the Western Electric company. Early this year he became associated in the ice and fuel business with Raymond Daly, Chicago, a man with about fifteen years of experience in that line.

The deceased was engaged to Miss Hazel Hofert, Chicago. Their marriage was to have occurred the coming fall.

The innocent victim of an automobile crash, Mr. Zeller's unexpected death came as a crushing blow to relatives and friends alike. He was a young man of many commendable traits of character—modest, amiable, unassuming—and with a determination to get ahead in the world that is the exception rather than the rule with many young men of today. Possessed of only a rural education, the success he had achieved since locating in Chicago is a striking illustration of his fine character and resourcefulness.

Besides the bereaved parents, he is survived by three brothers, Walter and Arnold, at home, and Werner, Los Angeles, Calif. A grandmother, living in Switzerland, also survives.