

1936 Scrapbook, image 106

(Handwritten: Thursday, Sept. 3, 1936)

OBED GILLIOM HURT AS TRUCK STRIKES TEAM Serious Accident at Noon Today on Road 27 Near Here

Obed Gilliom, aged 29, son of Mr. and Mrs. Orel Gilliom living several miles northwest of Berne, is in a critical condition at the Adams County Memorial Hospital at Decatur, suffering from injuries received in an accident at about 12 o'clock noon today. Gilliom has his skull fractured at the base, a broken right shoulder and numerous cuts and bruises. Little hope is held for his recovery.

Gilliom was injured in an unusual accident, which happened on Federal road 27, two and one-fourth miles north of Berne, a short distance south of the Jacob J. Schwartz home. Gilliom was driving north with a team of horses hitched to the wagon, when a large Chevrolet truck, loaded with clover seed, going south crashed into the team. The truck was driven by Paul Harr, aged 20, of Lebanon, Ind. The truck is owned by the Davis Seed Corporation, of Lebanon.

There were no eye witnesses to the crash, although Ervin Rauch, of Berne, was just a short distance behind the truck when the crash occurred. Members of the Jacob J. Schwartz family heard the crash and rushed to the scene. Gilliom had delivered a load of baled hay to the Berne Grain and Hay Company here, and was on his way home at the time of the accident. The truck was coming from the north, and according to all appearances, the truck was on the left side of the road, and crashed into the team of horses.

The impact was terrific. The wagon was thrown into the ditch on the west side of the road, several feet from where it was hit. One of the horses was found in the side ditch on the west side of the road. The animal was badly injured and was shot. The other horse was in the side ditch on the east side of the road, at least 50 feet away from the other animal. The wagon was broken into dozens of pieces and strewn along the highway and along the side ditches.

Mr. Gilliom was found on the pavement, almost in the middle of the road, lying in a pool of blood, with the blood streaming out of both ears. He was unconscious and lying on his back, motionless. A local doctor was notified immediately, as well as police officials, and Gilliom was hurried to the hospital in Decatur.

The truck driven by Harr left the road on the west side and ploughed through a fence, into a field. The front end of the truck was demolished and the windshield was shattered. The driver escaped with minor cuts and bruises.

Gilliom was found by Reuben Schwartz, who was on the scene first. A large crowd of people gathered immediately.

Both horses were stunned apparently. One never stood up after the accident, and was shot, but the (cut off...next column)

It was reported late this afternoon by Burl Johnson, state policeman, who investigated the accident, that Harr admitted driving on the left side of the road. He said that he was not asleep and that he just does not remember what happened. Just after the accident he had stated that Gilliom was on the wrong side of the road, and that he swerved his team in front of the truck, but this was doubted as all indications were that the wagon was on the right side of the road, with the truck on the left side.

Gilliom is unmarried and has been farming on his father's place.

(Handwritten: Monday, Sept. 28, 1936)

FUNERAL FOR OBED GILLIOM TO BE TUESDAY French Township Young Man Dies in Hospital From Injuries

Funeral services for Obed Gilliom, aged 29, who died Saturday at the Adams County Memorial Hospital, will be held at 9 o'clock Tuesday morning, at the home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Orel Gilliom, in French township, and at 10 o'clock at the Christian Apostolic Church. Burial will be in the church cemetery.

Gilliom died from injuries received, Thursday, Sept. 3, in an accident of Federal road 27, two miles north of Berne. He was driving north with a team of horses, when a truck owned by the Horton-Davis Seed Company, of Lebanon, driven by Paul Harr, aged 20, crashed into the team and wagon, throwing Gilliom to the pavement. He received a broken skull and other severe injuries.

Gilliom was taken to the Adams County hospital and had been unconscious ever since. However, it had been believed that he was slowly recovering. Last Wednesday complications set in and pneumonia developed. Despite medical treatment and a blood transfusion, his condition became rapidly worse. His temperature mounted to 10? degrees before he died.

Mr. Gilliom was born in French township, January 28, 1907, a son of Orel and Elizabeth Gerber Gilliom. He has been a resident of French township all his life and the past several years has been aiding his father in farming. He was not married.

Surviving are the parents and the following brothers and sisters: Ralph, South Bend; John, at home; Lucy, at home; Mrs. Elva Blocker, Wells county; Nora and Violet at home. The following half-brothers and half-sisters survive: Herman, Elgin, Illinois; Andrew, Bluffton; Louise, Bluffton; Aldine, Mansfield, Ohio; Aldula, Wells county and William, Bluffton.

Members of the Gilliom family who were injured recently in an automobile collision are reported to be improving nicely.

(Handwritten: Thursday, October 1, 1936)

NEW ARRIVALS

A son, John Brice, was born to Brice and Marcella Atz Bauserman, at the Adams County Memorial Hospital at Decatur this morning. Today is also the fourth wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. Bauserman.

(Handwritten: Monday, Sept. 21, 1936)

SEVERAL HURT IN BAD CRASH Gilliom-Affolder Cars Crash Thursday Evening West of Monroe

In one of the most serious of recent accidents that resulted in no fatalities, nine persons were injured Thursday evening, when cars driven by Ralph Gilliom, of northwest of Berne, and Elmer Affolder, of route one, Geneva, crashed at an intersection of road 124, three miles west of Monroe.

The injured are:

Elmer Affolder, head and back injuries, and severe cut on left ear.

Dorothy, his wife, who has been in ill health, suffered from extreme shock.

Kathleen, 8-year-old daughter, fractured jaw in two places, other cuts and bruises.

Bonnie, 6-year-old daughter, severely bruised hip and other injuries.

Ralph Gilliom, driver of other car, cut on nose and other minor cuts and bruises.

Lucy Gilliom, left arm broken in two places, between shoulder and elbow, and elbow and wrist.

Kenneth Gilliom, right shoulder dislocated.

Violet Gilliom, broken right clavicle and other bruises.

Norman Shafer, broken hip bone

By a queer quirk of fate, the Gilliom party was enroute to the Decatur hospital to visit with Ralph's brother, Obed, when the accident occurred. Obed was seriously injured in a recent auto-wagon crash. To further add to the tragic nature, the Affolder party had just returned from the cemetery, after visiting the grave of a small son, who had died recently.

The Gillioms, however, with the exception of Ralph, did not reach the Decatur hospital, as they were taken by a neighbor to the Wells county hospital. In some manner, Ralph was missed by the neighbor, and he was brought to the Decatur hospital with the injured members of the Affolder group.

Mr. Affolder stated that a corn field obstructed his view of the approaching road and stop sign, and that he drove into the middle of the highway before he realized his position. He was enroute north, and was struck broadside by the Gilliom auto.

The Affolder car turned over several times and crashed through a fence, before coming to a stop. The Gilliom auto tore into the ditch. Both cars were completely demolished, nothing but twisted steel, splintered wood and shattered glass remaining after the wreck.

Affolder was driving an Oldsmobile sedan which he purchased just ten days ago. He had no insurance on the car. The Gilliom car was insured.

(Handwritten: Monday, September 28, 1936)

BROTHER'S BLOOD FAILS TO SAVE OBED GILLIOM'S LIFE

Ralph Gilliom, brother of Obed Gilliom, who died at the Adams county Memorial hospital Saturday, donated blood in an effort to save his brother's life, but to no avail. A blood transfusion was performed Thursday evening and Obed rallied momentarily, but soon suffered a relapse and died without ever regaining full consciousness.

The only words Obed uttered regarding the accident in which he was fatally injured were: "If I had only taken the other road home." Obed was semi-conscious when he said this and members of the family believe he may have in mind taking another way home on the day of the accident.

(Handwritten: Monday, Sept. 28, 1936)

NEW ARRIVALS

A daughter, Debona Ileene, was born to William H. and Wilma Beer Bertsch of French township yesterday.

Merle and Hazel Florence Ne?? McCrosky of Geneva are the parents of a son born Sunday.

A daughter was born to Fred and Sarah Michel Wenger of Wells County this morning.

Carl David and Mae Kaehr Hirschy are the parents of a daughter, Marlene Jean, born this morning. Mr. and Mrs. Hirschy reside in Monroe township.

A daughter, Carolyn Sue, was born to Vernon Allen and Vio?? D. Johns Caffee of north of Chattanooga, Ohio, today.

Milo and Inez Luginbill Habegger are the parents of a daughter, Marilyn Joan, born Sunday afternoon. Mother and babe who are being cared for at the Adams County Memorial Hospital at Decatur are both doing fine.

Adams County Historical Museum

1936 Scrapbook, image 106

Transcribed by Karin King