

## **Derry Lew Moser**

Date of Death: 1967

Date of Burial: Saturday, December 2, 1967

Burial: Lot 595, Orig. Platt

### **Berne Lad, 10, Loses Life When Accidently Shot by Older Brother in Family Home**

A ten-year-old Berne lad lost his life in an accidental shooting in his home Wednesday evening.

Dead is Derry Lee Moser, son of Mr. and Mrs. Tillman Moser who reside at 405 West Water Street. He died instantly at 6:03 pm Wednesday when the load from a 12-gauge shot gun ripped into his body. Members of the family immediately tried to revive him by mouth-to-mouth breathing but the lad, a student in the fifth grade of South Adams Elementary School in Berne, was dead.

The gun, when the fatal blast was discharged, was in the hands of Derry's older brother, Kenneth, 15. The full load of the gun entered Derry's body just above the left pelvis and traveled upward through the diaphragm into the lungs and heart.

Derry had been out of school a few days because of a siege of impetigo. He was in a downstairs room playing with some of his toy trucks and was on his hands and knees when shot. He and Kenneth often played together and Kenneth was in a small room just to the north of the one where Derry was playing. Kenneth took the shot gun from where it was kept and inserted a shell into it. He thought the gun was on safety, pointed it at his brother and apparently pulled the trigger. It is believed Kenneth merely tried to frighten his younger brother.

One version of the shooting, as related by one of the investigating officers, is that the two boys were playing "combat" and that they wanted it to look "realistic" by using a loaded gun. Members of the family said they had often engaged in playing games in which toy guns were used.

The mother of the boys was in the living room of the house and the father upstairs. They heard the explosion when the gun was fired and Mr. Moser said the noise sounded like "a big firecracker." They heard Kenneth scream and both rushed into the room to see their youngest son lying on the floor. A local doctor was called and later County Coroner Richard Linn and police, city and county, arrived at the Moser home to

conduct the investigation. The investigation is continuing and no verdict is expected for a few days.

Needless to say, the tragedy stunned the Moser family and the community as well.

Derry was a member of the Berne Cub Scouts and the First Missionary Church.

He was born in Adams County February 6, 1957, a son of Tillman and Martha Hiester Moser.

Surviving are the parents; three sisters, Mrs. Robert (Karen) Herman, Ceylon; Mrs. Richard (Phyllis) Black, Decatur and Patty, at home; three brothers, Maurice Moser, Berne, Clyde, Decatur; and Kenneth, at home.

The body is at the Yager Funeral Home where friends may call. Services will be held at 2:00 pm Saturday at the First Missionary Church, Rev. Gerald Gerig officiating. Burial will be in the MRE Cemetery.

**Berne Library Heritage Room (IN)**

**MRE Obit Book 1966 - 1972, image 98**

**Transcribed by Jim Cox**