

Adams County, Indiana Historical Society 1939 scrapbook

(Handwritten date: Thursday, May 25, 1939)

ADAMS COUNTY MAN DROWNS EARLY TUESDAY

Ed Alt, 30, Drowns Near Pleasant Mills, While Fishing in River

An evident pleasure fishing trip ended in death Tuesday morning for Ed Alt, 30-year-old St. Mary's township resident, whose body was (crease in paper) ...of the village.

Deputy Gillig and Coroner Yager agreed, after preliminary examination, that the body had probably been in the water approximately five hours. Young Alt lay face down with only part of his back showing and his legs criss-crossed around a pair of fishing poles.

Reports of intimates of the young man revealed that he had been subject to epileptic seizures and this was offered as a cause for his falling into the stream. It is considered likely that he was stricken while fishing and plunged forward head first.

VERIFY TRIP

The grief-stricken parents, Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Alt, of northeast of Bobo, with whom the young man lived, verified this version of the accident.

They stated that he had purchased a fishing license on Monday and that evening signified his intention of going out early Tuesday morning.. They stated that he arose about 4 o'clock and left before others were awake at the home.

Bud Steele, of near Bobo, reported to Deputy Gillig that he had seen the Alt car, parked on the road east of the river, about 5 o'clock Tuesday morning, thus corroborating the fact that he could have been in the water five hours before being discovered.

Aided by spectators, mostly from Pleasant Mills who had gathered at the accident scene after learning of the drowning, the coroner and deputy succeeded in getting the body out of the water. The body was taken to the Zwick funeral home at Decatur.

NEVER MARRIED

Alt, who was 30 years old, was never married. He had been making his home with the parents. Surviving, besides the parents, are a brother, Orval Alt, who resides near Decatur, and two sisters, Alma Alt of this city and Ruth Alt of Fort Wayne.

After further examination Tuesday afternoon, Coroner Yager stated that his verdict would be death due to accidental drowning. He also stated that a watch in the dead man's pocket had stopped at 5:05 a.m. leading him to believe that he had fallen into the stream five minutes after arriving.

The funeral was held at 1 o'clock this afternoon at the home of the parents, Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Alt. (Cut off)

Transcribed by Karin King