

(Handwritten date: Friday, Oct. 1, 1943)

Karin King note: Should be Friday, November 1, 1943

CHARLES BAHNER, MONROE BARBER, CROSSING VICTIM Well Known Man Hit By Train In Monroe; Funeral Sunday P. M.

Charles Edward Bahner, 68, for the past 39 years a barber in the town of Monroe, was instantly killed Wednesday afternoon about 3:40 o'clock when his car, which he was driving, was struck by the southbound G.R. & I. passenger train No. 502 at the Burk Elevator crossing in that town which is the state road 124 intersection with the Pennsylvania railroad, a block north of the depot. The train was slowing down to about fifteen miles an hour for a stop at the station.

Mr. Bahner's body fell from the wreckage of his 1931 model Chevrolet sedan, a short distance south of the crossing, while the wreckage remained on the front of the locomotive until the train was brought to a stop, dragging it almost to the Main street crossing, nearly a block from the scene of the accident.

The victim suffered a broken skull and deep lacerations on the back of the head, broken left arm and leg, broken right shoulder, deep cut in the back, a probable broken back, severe abrasions and cuts about the face.

Several persons witnessed the accident and a near eye witness was Mr. Bahner's son-in-law, Glen Stucky, the station agent at Monroe. Mr. Stucky watched the train approaching and as it came near town, he walked outside and in the few seconds that elapsed, the tragedy occurred. As Glen came out in front of the station, he saw the wrecked car being pushed down the tracks toward the station in front of the locomotive and the body lying between the main tracks and the switch tracks, just west of the Burk Elevator. Raymond Meyer, west of Berne, a school bus driver in Monroe township was approaching the crossing from the east and saw the accident.

About a half hour before the tragedy Mr. Bahner closed his barber shop to go to his truck patch with Mrs. Bahner to gather up some of their truck. As he was turning his key at the door, a customer walked up for a hair cut. Mr. Bahner prevailed on the friend to wait until in the morning since he had some truck patch work he wanted to do.

Having filled their car with garden truck Mr. Bahner jokingly told Mrs. Bahner there wasn't any room left for her to ride (cut)...Their patch, incidentally, was along the railroad on the east side about two blocks north of where the accident took place. She remarked it wasn't far to walk and (cut)

...of the locomotive. The car was hit squarely in the middle.

A building cut off the view between the crossing and the garden where Mrs. Bahner was working and oil line pipe was being unloaded nearby caused quite a noise, so that Mrs. Bahner did not notice the tragedy. Presently, however, she came walking to go home and came upon the scene, the first knowledge she had of an accident. Joining those standing about the victim, she at once recognized the clothes her husband wore

and was deeply shocked to behold the grim facts of the fate of her husband, whom she had seen in good health and good spirits a few minutes earlier.

The train remained at the station about a half hour until Coroner Robert Zwick of Decatur arrived and made an investigation. The car was then rolled from the tracks and was later on Wednesday evening brought to the Jefferson Garage here. It is beyond repair, but may be salvaged for parts. None of the tires was damaged.

The deceased was a native of Pennsylvania and was born on August 16, 1875, a son of Daniel and Kathryn Bahner. Before coming to Monroe, 39 years ago, he graduated as a nurse from the Danville State Hospital in Pennsylvania. After coming to Monroe, he bought a barber shop and has been in that business there ever since.

At Monroe, he met his fiance, Miss Daisy Sherer, who on May 4, 1905 became Mrs. Bahner. She survives together with four children: Mrs. Fred Smith of Fort Wayne; Sgt. Paul M. Bahner of Pomona, California; Mrs. Glen Stucky of Monroe, and Tech. Sgt. Max O. Bahner, somewhere in the North Africa war theatre. There is also a grandson. A son, Gerald, preceded him.

A half-brother, George Bahner, and a half-sister, Mrs. Fred Leath of Pennsylvania, also survive.

For 38 years Mr. Bahner was a member of the Monroe Methodist church, where for some years he has been serving as a trustee and as treasurer of the Sunday school. He was also a trustee of the Ray cemetery.

Funeral services will be held at the Methodist church of that place at 2 o'clock on Sunday afternoon with burial in the Ray cemetery, Rev. Julius Pfeiffer officiating.

The son, Sgt. Paul Bahner, is expected home from California Saturday evening. Word of the tragedy is also being forwarded to the other son, Tech. Sgt. Max in the African area.

The body will be returned to the home after 6 o'clock this evening from the Lobenstein mortuary in Monroe.

Adams County (IN) Historical Society

1943b Scrapbook, Image 146

Transcribed by Karin King