

Adams County Historical Society Scrapbooks - Indiana

Clipping dated Thursday, October 8, 1936

Hosa Newcomer, 70, Uncle of Local Woman, Killed Tuesday
Accidental Death

Coroner G.L. Perry of Portland, today returned a verdict of accidental death in the case of Hosa Newcomer, who was killed Tuesday in an accident south of Geneva. The truck driver, Mackv Matosky, has been released from jail.

Coroner Perry of Jay county will return a verdict in a few days regarding the death of Hosa Newcomer, 70, an uncle of Mrs. Floyd Ellenberger of this place, who was killed a short distance south of Geneva Tuesday afternoon. It has been established that Newcomer died in Jay county, which under a recent law makes it a case for Jay county authorities to handle.

Robert Freeby, deputy Adams county coroner late Wednesday declined jurisdiction in the case, stating that evidence shows that Newcomer died in Jay county while being taken home following the accident. In this case, Dr. G.L. Perry, Jay county coroner must return a verdict. Newcomer was fatally hurt when a truck driven by Mack Matosky, 21, of Dayton, Ohio, crashed into the rear of a buggy Newcomer was driving. Matosky was taken into custody immediately after the accident by Burl Johnson and Sheriff Dallas Brown. He was arraigned before Mayer Holthouse at Decatur Wednesday and he plead guilty to driving a vehicle without a chauffeur's license. He was fined \$1 and costs. Matosky's partner, Tal Peiffer, who was with Matosky at the time of the accident, was permitted to continue on to Michigan for a load of fruit. Any further action against Matosky will depend on the verdict to be returned by the Jay county coroner.

Died Enroute Home

Hosa Newcomer, the victim in the crash, died on the way home from the office of a Geneva physician. His home was located in Jay county near the Adams county line.

Matosky told Sheriff Dallas Brown that he had had but little or no sleep since last Wednesday, driving almost constantly since that time.

From the story gathered from the men in the truck and the passerby, who arrived on the scene shortly after the crash, a plausible account of how the accident occurred was pieced together by Sheriff Brown and state police.

The deceased was traveling north on highway 27, when struck from the rear by the big truck at a point, three-fourth of a mile south of Geneva. The horse and buggy were dragged by the truck for a distance of 85 feet, before being thrown to the ditch on the right.

The horse was killed instantly and the buggy almost completely demolished.

Contributed by Karin King