

Otto E. Bontly
April 21, 1891 – May 17, 1963

Otto E. Bontly, Long Time Treasurer Here, Succumbs Friday

Services for Otto E. Bontly, 72 years of age, treasurer of the village of Monticello for 32 years, who was found dead in the basement of the village hall Friday forenoon were held at 2 p. m. Monday in the Zwingli United Church of Christ.

The Rev. J. Allan Mittler, church pastor, officiated. Masonic and military services were held at the graveside in Highland cemetery here. Pallbearers were Henry V. Baebler, Wilbert J. Dick, Henry J. Elmer, C. W. Karlen, Adam A. Schuler and John Stenbrotten.

"Rollie" as he was known to his many friends, was found dead by Harold Schulz, village street commissioner. Coroner Richard Wagner, Monroe, ruled the death a suicide. Mr. Bontly left a note indicating he had been suffering from ill health.

He was born in York township April 21, 1891, the son of Anton and Celiea Babler Bontly. He attended school in Monticello. He served as a railroad clerk here and enlisted in World War I on May 24, 1918. He was discharged Feb. 19, 1919, after serving with the 331st Field Artillery, Battery F, 86th, or Blackhawk Division, and was in France for six months.

Legion Charter Member

Mr. Bontly was a charter member and a past commander of the Amstutz-Marty post, American Legion. For more than 40 years he had carried the American flag to the Soldier's Monument in the church cemetery on Memorial Day.

Mr. Bontly was active in Masonic work, having been a member of the Monticello Masonic lodge, the New Glarus Chapter RAM and the Monticello Eastern Star. On Jan. 25, 1960, he was honored by the Monticello lodge with an "Otto Bontly Night." He had served the lodge as secretary for 36 years. He became a Mason in 1917 and was elected secretary in 1923, serving through 1959.

Fireman 45 Years

Mr. Bontly was a member of the Monticello Fire department for 45 years, retiring in 1957. He served as treasurer of the department from 1928 until his retirement.

He had served as treasurer of the Monticello Red Cross chapter for many years and had operated a drayage business, known as "Rollie's Transfer," since 1930. He drove a school bus for the Monticello schools for many years.

He is survived by two sisters, Misses Anna and Sophia Bontly, Monticello. The father died in 1902 and the mother in 1951. A brother, Anton, died in 1891 and a sister, Alma, in 1918,