

**Henry J. Duerst**  
**June 4, 1889 - April 10, 1970**

**Henry J. Duerst, 80, Esteemed Local Man, Stricken Suddenly**

The community was plunged into sadness when it was learned that Henry J. Duerst, age 80, prominent Monticello resident, was found dead at 6 p.m. Friday in a burned area at the rear of his home on Railroad avenue.

Mr. Duerst had been raking his lawn and apparently was burning off an area of grass to the rear of his property. When Mr. Duerst did not return to the home, his wife summoned a neighbor, who began a search for Mr. Duerst. He appeared to have been trapped by the flames, with his body severely burned, according to Green County Coroner Richard Wagner.

**Funeral Services Monday**

Funeral services were held at 2 Monday afternoon at Zwingli United Church of Christ. The Rev. J. Allan Mittler, church pastor, officiated, and burial was in Highland cemetery.

Pallbearers were Elmer A. Duerst, Middleton, Walter F. Duerst, Belleville, Richard Zumkehr, Browntown, Vernon C. Duerst and Steven Truttman, Monroe, and Dennis Truttman, Monticello.

Henry J. Duerst was born in New Glarus township on the Duerst homestead, June 4, 1889, a son of Fred H. and Emile Kundert Duerst. He attended rural school and in 1905 was confirmed in Swiss church, New Glarus.

On Dec. 4, 1912, he was united in marriage to Verena Voegeli in the home of her parents. They farmed for two years on the Duerst homestead, south west of New Glarus, and then moved to Monticello, where Mrs. Duerst died March 15, 1937. In June, 1941, Mr. Duerst was married to Marie Christen Zumkehr in the Little Brown Church, Nashua, Iowa.

For many years Mr. Duerst was employed at Rolph Bros. lumber firm here as a yardman, and also at the Karlen & Steinmann Lumber Co. For a term of years he was a mason tender and plasterer with the late Jacob Baehler, Monticello.

For eight years, before his retirement in 1954, he was in charge of street and cemetery work for the village. Mr. Duerst was a member of the Zwingli United Church of Christ, Monticello. He was a long time member of the Monticello Fire department, of which he was made an honorary member. He also was affiliated with the Swiss club of Monroe. Mr. Duerst had made two trips to Switzerland, where he visited cousins and other relatives.

Mr. Duerst is survived by his widow; two step-sons, Aronld F. Zumkehr, Monroe, and Raymond D. Zumkehr, Madison; two step-daughters, Mrs. Ray E (Wilma) Blum, Monticello, and Mrs. Forrest (Eleanor) Edseth, Monroe; two brothers, Adam and Herman W. Duerst, Belleville; nine step-grandchildren and nine step-great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by three brothers, Emil, Fred H. Jr., and Clarence, a step-grandson, Richard Zumkehr, and a step-granddaughter, Jacquelyn Zumkehr.