

Earling boy killed in car-motorcycle collision

EARLING — A 14-year-old Earling youth was killed Monday evening, April 2, in a car-motorcycle accident at the intersection of Fourth Avenue and Highway 37 (Railway Street) in Earling.

Chad Erlbacher was pronounced dead at Myrtue Memorial Hospital following the accident, in which the 1977 Suzuki motorcycle he was driving collided with a 1988 Ford pick-up truck driven by Francis N. Nielsen, 57, Dunlap, at 6:53 p.m. that evening.



Erlbacher

Sheriff reports indicated that the Nielsen vehicle was eastbound on Highway 37 coming into Earling, and as it neared the intersection, the motorcycle traveled into the intersection and hit the left, front side of the truck.

The motorcycle also struck a horse trailer that was being pulled behind the truck.

It is not known whether or not Erlbacher ran the stop sign, or if he was wearing a helmet. Sheriff's officials said he was not licensed to operate the motorcycle.

Erlbacher was taken to Myrtue Memorial Hospital by Earling Rescue

suffering from multiple injuries, including head injuries. He was pronounced dead on arrival. Medivac Ambulance/Rescue also responded to the accident. There were no injuries to persons in the Nielsen vehicle.

The truck sustained an estimated \$800 damage while the motorcycle sustained \$200 damage. Shelby County Sheriff's Deputy Brad McQueen was called to the scene and was assisted by the Iowa State Patrol. The accident still is under investigation. No citations have been issued.

Funeral Services

Funeral services were held Thursday, April 5 at 11 a.m. at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Earling with burial following in St. Joseph's Cemetery.

Erlbacher is survived by his parents, Bill and Joan of Earling; three brothers, Mike of St. Joseph, Mo., Dave of Minneapolis, Mn. and Shawn of Earling; two sisters, Michelle Kenkel (Mrs. Jeff) of Omaha and Jacquie Vrbicky (Mrs. Corrie) of Omaha; his maternal parents, the Alban Grosses of Earling and a paternal grandmother, Valeria Erlbacher of Earling.

Erlbacher was in the eighth-grade at St. Joseph School in Earling. He was a member of the Boy Scouts, and participated in basketball, baseball and golf.