

# Bert Dickerson, Member of 1895 State Championship Hose Team, Died Thursday

4-24-1952  
Way back in 1895, Grinnell had a state championship hose team. That was in the days when the boys ran to fires instead of riding on a truck and these hose team races were features of the annual state tournaments which the fire laddies held.

On that team was a young auto mechanic named Bert Dickerson. Bert was known as a "coupler". He and John Carlsted, then a local plumber, made the coupling after the boys on the hose team had made the run. They were good at it. A picture of that championship team now has an honored place on the wall of the fire hall.

## Down Through The Years

All down through the years Bert Dickerson has made his home in Grinnell, liked and respected by all who knew him. He built the building west of The Herald-Register where Claire's Cleaners is now located and for many years he ran a garage there.

Bert Dickerson died Thursday evening. If he had lived until August 29, he would have been 82 years old. He had spent most of his long life, since he was two years old, right here. Until late years, when his health began to fail he had hardly been away. Everybody knew Bert and liked him. There are many good things to remember about him, but The Herald-Register believes that if one had asked Bert Dickerson his fondest memory, it would be that back in 1895 he was a coupler on the Grinnell hose team that won the state championship.

Funeral services were held Saturday afternoon, April 26, at 4:00 p.m. from the Smith funeral home, with Rev. C. E. Kingsley officiating. Burial was in Hazelwood cemetery.

Organ numbers were provided by E. H. Bohstedt.

Herb Armstrong, Clint Butler, Ross Coutts, Earl Goff, Ira Goodrich, Dr. C. E. Harris, S. J. Pooley, Ferd Sprung and John Russell were honorary pall bearers. Active pall bearers were Ben Holcomb, Donald Holcomb, Keith Holcomb, Dale Pilgrim, James Pilgrim and Laverne Smith.

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