

**Lou Seiberth,  
Fireman for  
56 Yrs., Dies**  
H-R Aug. 9, 1954  
Well-Known Grinnellian  
Succumbs Today at  
Oakdale; Was 79



Louis Seiberth

Louis Seiberth, better known to his friends as "Grab", a Grinnell fireman for 56 years, died at 5:40 a.m. today in the Oakdale Sanitarium where he had been a patient for two weeks. He was 79 years old and is survived by his wife and son. Funeral plans are incomplete. Friends may call the Smith funeral home.

"Grab" had probably been a fireman longer than any other man in the state of Iowa. He became a member of the Grinnell department when it was reorganized in 1898 and has maintained his membership continuously since that time.

He has not been an active fire fighter for some years but had served for many years continuously as the department secretary. He served as chief in 1944.

**Honored for Service**  
In 1924 "Grab" was given an award for 20 years of service and in 1948 he was honored at a 50th anniversary party in recognition of his services to the department. At that time he was presented with a purse of fifty silver dollars, one for each year of his service.

Mr. and Mrs. Seiberth observed their fiftieth wedding anniversary on July 30, 1952.

**Recalled Big Fires**  
His devotion to the department for over half a century has been exemplary. He helped fight some of Grinnell's most

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spectacular fires, among them the Norris fire in 1913 and the Antlers hotel fire, when the thermometer stood at 20 below and the firemen were sheathed in ice until they looked like icicles.

As long as his health permitted, after his retirement from his job on the Rock Island railroad in 1950, he was a daily visitor at the fire hall and he never lost his keen interest in the department.

A special article about "Grab" appeared in The Herald-Register March 27, 1952. The opening sentence said: "Louis Seiberth likes to put out fires." He was that sort of a man.

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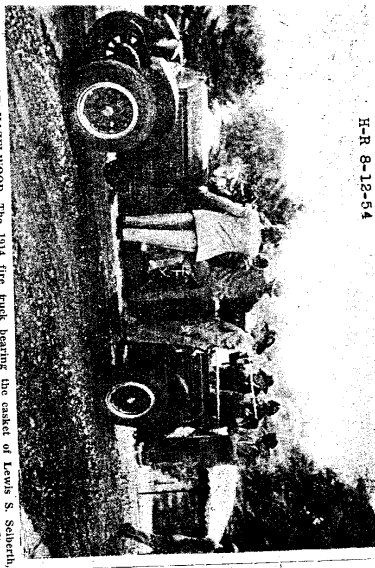
were Virgil Case, George Mowitt, Cliff McCain, Steve Smith, Bill Walter and Bert Whitsaker.

**Obituary**  
Lewis Samuel Seiberth was born in Grinnell Nov. 8, 1875, and lived here his entire life. He was the son of John and Laura Watts Seiberth. On July 30, 1902, he was united in marriage with Emma R. Bradley who survives him. They had been married for 54 years. There is also a son, Laurel Seiberth of Burbank, Calif.

During his entire active life Mr. Seiberth was employed as freight clerk by the Rock Island railroad. He retired a few years ago.

He was a member of the Methodist church and the Knights of Pythias.

ARRIVES AT HAZELWOOD - The 1914 fire truck bearing the casket of Lewis S. Seiberth, a well-known Grinnell fireman, arrives at Hazelwood cemetery near the grave of the long-time Grinnell fireman. It was Seiberth's request that his body be taken to its resting place in the old truck.



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**Seiberth's Body Taken to Cemetery  
In 1914 Fire Truck; Fireman 56 Years**

As a special tribute to his long years of service as a member of the Grinnell volunteer fire department, the body of Lewis Seiberth was carried to his last resting place in Hazelwood cemetery yesterday afternoon in Grinnell's first fire truck, a Ward LaFrance, during the funeral services for the fireman, which were held at the Smith funeral home.

Members of the fire department and auxiliary associates, who had been a member of the department for 56 years, Mr. Seiberth had been on the scene

and subject to fire calls up to two weeks before his death.

**Died Monday**  
Mr. Seiberth died Monday afternoon at the Oakdale Sanitarium, after an illness of six months.

He was 79 years, 7 months and 12 days old when he died. He was born in Grinnell, Iowa, and was a member of the Methodist church. His wife, Mrs. Emma R. Bradley Seiberth, survives him. He was a member of the Methodist church and the Knights of Pythias.

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