

# Missing Earling man victim of tractor rollover

**EARLING** -- A 67-year-old Earling man, not seen for about four days, was found dead Monday afternoon, May 24, apparently the victim of a tractor rollover accident on his Earling farm.

Robert M. Gross was found by family members in a field north of the residence, Shelby County Sheriffs' reports indicated. The family had not talked to or seen Gross since Thursday, May 20, reports said.

Family members called authorities about 2:10 p.m. Monday. Reports said it appeared as if Gross was spraying weeds on an embankment when the ground may have given way. The tractor overturned, apparently throwing Gross off, reports said.

After overturning, the tractor then righted itself on its wheels and continued down the embankment coming to

rest around a tree at the bottom of the hill, reports said.

Reports indicated the terrain in the area of the accident was "very hilly and steep" where the accident occurred.

Services for Gross were held Thursday, May 27 at 10:30 a.m. at St. Joseph's Catholic Church with burial in the St. Joseph's Cemetery at Earling.

Gross is survived by three sons --

Craig (LuAnn) Gross of Panama, Richard (Annette) Gross of Earling and Brad Gross and friend Lisa Jumps of Des Moines; four daughters -- Cindy (Tom) Moore of Phoenix, Az., Sandy (Tim) Thielen of Pavillion, Wyo., Diane (Lynn) Martens of Portsmouth, and Kari (Denny Kohles) Gross of Panama; five brothers -- Leo "Pete" (Ruth) Gross of Earling, Alphonse Gross of Lincoln, Neb., Gene (Sharon) Gross of Battle Creek, Jerry (Sharon) Gross of Earling and Vern (Cathy) Gross of Palmdale, Calif.; and four sisters -- Leona (Elmer) Babel of Columbus, Neb., Helen (Marvin) Bissen of Harlan, Dorothy (Henry) Coenen of Woodbine and Marie (Charlie) Klein of Earling.