

March 15, 1945

## James Boettcher Found Dead In Cassels Block Basement

James Boettcher, 64-year-old farm laborer, died Sunday morning. His body was found about 5:00 o'clock Sunday morning at the foot of the stairs leading to the basement of the Cassels building with a fractured skull.

Coroner Leo Krueger, Sheriff Gordon and States Atty. Vernon Williams of Aberdeen were called and after the usual investigation, his body was turned over to the Paetznick Funeral Home for burial preparation.

Officers surmise that Mr. Boettcher either lost his balance at the top of the stairs or stepped into the stairway by error in the dark.

At different times, he had worked on farms in the Groton community and more recently was employed by Raymond Johnson. He had three brothers, two living at Athol and the other at Redfield.

"Jim" Boettcher was born in Germany in 1881. One of his brothers, William, from Redfield, came to Groton and arranged for burial. Last rites were held from the Paetznick Funeral Home Wednesday afternoon at 4:00 o'clock with the Rev. Luther C. Benson, officiating. Interment was made in the Groton cemetery.