

Mount Vernon Herald

JANUARY 3, 1918

BOAT UPSETS BOY DROWNS

Little John Gruber of Clear Lake, lost his life in the flood waters of the Skagit Wednesday evening when, in company with his brother, Joe Gruber, they attempted to make their way over the waters to the ranch.

The accident happened about 6 o'clock in the evening. Little John had come down from Clear Lake and had waited near the Clear Lake yards, close to the broken dike for his brother, who was coming in a boat from the Loveless place, where he lives with his family.

Both brothers had gotten into Joe's boat and were making their way back when near the broken trestle, a heavy current struck them, and seeing that their boat was doomed the older brother jumped for the trestle, yelling for Little John to do the same. The boy jumped but missed the railroad trestle and went down into the whirling waters. He almost immediately disappeared in the current. Joe rushed to town and the Black Prince hastened to the scene. Willing hands searched most of the night for the little fellow, and up to the time the Herald goes to press, the body had not been found.

The little fellow lived with his father, Wes Gruber and sister Katie, at Clear Lake where the father is employed by the Clear Lake Lumber Company. The mother is dead.

He was about thirteen years old. Three sisters live in the south part of the county while another brother lives in Minnesota.