

Berman F. Prether, son of Paul Parker (1895-1958) and Grace Lucille (Swank) (1901-1999) Prether, was born 26 September 1932, Darke

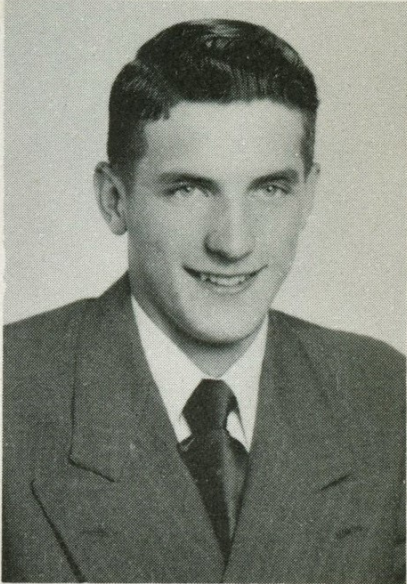
1950 Okemos Tomahawk

County, Ohio. Berman graduated in 1950 from Okemos

High School. At Okemos he had a distinguished career in pole vaulting and won the Class C pole vault, May 1950.

BERMAN PRETHER

Vice President-2
F.F.A.-2,3
Varsity Club-3,4
Football-1,2,3,4
Track-1,2,3,4
Basketball-2,3,4
"Strictly Formal"-3



Berman Prether

"Take life easy;
you live but once."

Lansing State Journal (Lansing, Michigan) Thursday 11 May 1950

Jim Tuttle broke the high hurdle record running against a strong wind. Berman Prether, Okemos pole vaulter, who has cleared 11 feet this year, tried for a new record after winning the event at 10 feet 3 inches. The record is 10 feet 10 inches so the bar was raised to 11 feet. Prether missed at this height.



DEATH SKIPS PAST NUMBER

OKEMOS BOY UNSCATHED AS TRAIN FLIPS HIS AUTO

Berman Prether, 18, of R. 3, Okemos, is a fatalist.

He's one of those persons who believes that he will die only when his number goes up on that mythical board.

And he could point to a railroad crossing accident near Okemos at 7:43 o'clock Thursday evening to prove his contention.

Berman had driven his car to a stop at the Grand Trunk railroad crossing on N. Okemos rd. and was standing to wait for it to pass.

When the caboose whizzed by, he started up his car and proceeded across the railroad tracks.

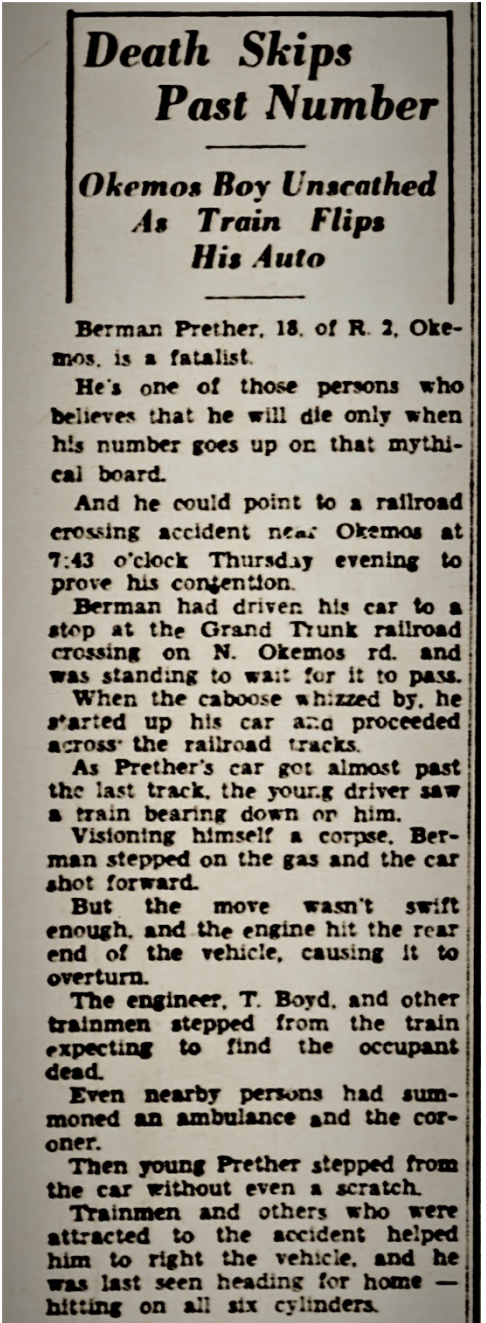
As Prether's car got almost past the last track, the young driver saw a train bearing down on him.

Visioning himself a corpse, Berman stepped on the gas and the car shot forward.

But the move wasn't swift enough and the engine hit the rear end of the vehicle, causing it to overturn.

The engineer, t. Boyd, and other trainmen stepped from the train expecting to find the occupant dead.

Even nearby persons had summoned an ambulance and the coroner.



**Death Skips
Past Number**

**Okemos Boy Unscathed
As Train Flips
His Auto**

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Then young Prether stepped from the car without even a scratch.

Trainmen and others who were attracted to the accident helped him to right the vehicle, and he was last seen heading for home — hitting on all six cylinders.

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Berman was drafted into the US Army. He left for induction with other draftees, Fort Wayne, Indiana, by special bus on 18 November 1952.

Lansing State Journal (Lansing, Michigan) Wednesday 17 June 1953

FOURLOUGHES -

MORROW, PRETHER - Two men from Lansing and its area have left for advanced training in German, following 12 -day delay en route furloughs at home. the men are: Pvt. Vernon L. Morrow, son of Clifford Morrow, 512 Smith ave., and Mrs. Kathleen Joseph, 5612 Curtis rd.; and Pvt. Berman Prether of N. Okemos rd., son of Mr. and Mrs. Parker Prether. The men have just completed their basic training and eight weeks of leadership training at Ft. Knox, Ky., with the Third Armored Tank Division.

After honorable discharge from the military Berman came back to Ingham County and married Maurine Janet Hart on 11 September 1955.

Lansing State Journal (Lansing, Michigan) Thursday 16 June 1955

ENGAGED - A September wedding is being planned by Miss Maurine Janet Hart and Berman Prether whose engagement is announced by her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Hart, 3429 Sylvan rd. Mr. Prether is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Parker P. Prether, 5009 N. Okemos rd.



In 1955 Berman became a fireman with the East Lansing Fire Department, East Lansing, Ingham County, Michigan. The vocation turned into a long and distinguished 35 year career with the department, serving as the East Lansing Fire Marshall for 34 years. He retired in 1989.

Easy Case

Fire Marshal Finds Solution to Dense Smoke in Home

It didn't take long for East Lansing Fire Marshal Berman F. Prether to find the cause and source of dense smoke in a home at 1659 Greencrest.

Shortly after the fire department was called to the home Tuesday afternoon the fire sleuth discovered that the woman of the house had started a fire in the fireplace but she forgot to open the vent to release the smoke.

Prether had quite a bit to go on in his investigation—it was his home and his wife.

Berman and Janet celebrated 61 years and 2 children together. Berman died 31 July 2017, Gratiot County, Michigan.

18 Get Service Awards

East Lansing city employes honored 18 workers for their years of service to the city at the annual Award Dinner last night at Hospitality Inn.

Those honored for fifteen years' service include Berman F. Prether, fire marshal; Donald H. Gallo, fire lieutenant; Richard L. Blakeslee, fire sergeant; Frederick B. Farley, engineer; Vincent P. Kieffer, mechanic superintendent; Russell J. Taylor, water plant operator; Benjamin R. Felton, public service employe.



Obituary: Gorsline-Runciman Funeral Homes

Berman F. Prether, was born on September 26, 1932 in Darke County, Ohio, son of the late Paul and Grace (Swank) Prether, and passed away on



July 31, 2017 at the age of 84. Berman proudly served his country in the U.S. Army, he was a firefighter from 1955-1989, and was the Fireman Marshal of East Lansing. Berman enjoyed the spending time in the out-of-doors; especially fishing, hunting and camping, as well as spending time with his family. He was preceded in death by his parents; sister, Ruby Casey; brother, Herman (Henrietta) Prether; and brother-in-law Robert Bannerman.

Surviving to cherish his memory is his beloved wife of over 60 years, Maurine (Prether); son, Randy both of Perrinton, MI; his daughter Karen (Glenn) Ernst of St. Johns, MI; grandchildren Joshua Prether and Jessica

Prether of Potterville, MI., Laura (Matt) Zelenka of New Salisbury, IN., Sarah (Pat) Oddan of New Castle, Co.; great-granddaughter Julianna Prether of Potterville, MI.; sisters, Sharon Bannerman and Kathy (Dave) Shaulis.

A funeral service will be held at 1:00 p.m. on Friday, August 4, 2017 at Gorsline-Runciman Funeral Homes, 1730 East Grand River Avenue, East Lansing, Michigan. The family will receive friends at the funeral home from 2-4 p.m. and 6-8 p.m. on Thursday, August 3, and one hour prior to the service on Friday.