



THE
SUNFLOWER
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Shocking News

Electricity from lightning was well known to the pioneers of Reno County, but with the convenience of electric lighting and power lines came a new world of safety awareness and, sadly, terrific tragedies to many families. This issue includes several sad tales of some Reno County residents who were electrocuted in their homes, at work, and in the streets.



MORTON EMPLOYEE IS ELECTROCUTED

Samuel S. Bond, an employe of the Morton Salt Co., was electrocuted this morning at 11:30 when he came in contact with a defective electric light cord at the plant.

The family lives at 101 North Whiteside street. He was 53 years of age and is survived by a wife and three children, Charles, Cyril, and Almeda.

At the office of the Morton Salt company it was admitted that a rumor had reached the office that a man had been killed, but his name was not known and whether the man had been killed by a falling brick from the chimney, by a freight car striking him, or in what manner was not known. In fact the office was not quite certain anyone was killed. The office, it should be understood, is a hundred or so feet away from the salt works.

The Hutchinson News, Thursday, February 21, 1918. Page 1.

No Inquest Will Be Held. The funeral services of the late Samuel S. Bond will be held at home but the date will be announced later on receipt of word from relatives in the west. He was born in Hamilton county, Indiana, on August 27, 1865 and came to eastern Kansas with his parents when three years of age. Later he came to the western part of the state and in 1894 he was married to Mary Louise Bartel of Stafford. The family came to Hutchinson in September 1910 and have lived here ever since. Mr. Bond is survived by his wife, and three children: Charles, Cyril, a senior in high school, and Almeda, a freshman in high school. He also has a brother, Ira, in California and two half brothers, John C. Bond of Oskaloosa and George A. Bond of Rock Creek.

The death of Mr. Bond came yesterday morning suddenly while inside a boiler in the boiler room of the Morton Salt plant, which he was cleaning out with the help of Gene Withrow. Earlier in the morning Bond had complained of having a pain in his side and told Withrow he felt like laying off for the day. While the two men were at work at cleaning out the boiler, the electric light cord to the light which they were using in some manner fell into the water in the bottom of the boiler. It was the ordinary extension cord carrying a voltage of 110 and Withrow felt a slight shock but not enough to hurt him. When he saw Bond sink down he thought the pain he had spoken of earlier in the morning was the cause of the trouble. Doctors were summoned but the stricken man was beyond all help. In a case like this under the workmen's compensation law of Kansas, the dependent family is paid the monthly salary received by the person killed for three years after the accident, unless the widow or children elect to settle otherwise. Coroner H.M. Stewart on investigation found that the facts of the case pointed clearly to the cause of death from shock from electricity and that no inquest will be held. *The Hutchinson News, Friday, February 22, 1918. Page 2.*

THIS ISSUE: ELECTROCUTION

Eugene Withrow Tells Of Accident

Eugene Withrow, the employe of the Morton Salt plant who was in the boiler with S.S. Bond when the latter was electrocuted on last Thursday at the plant, asks that a correction be made concerning the accident. "Bond



did not complain of a pain in his side to me or say he felt like laying off," said Mr. Withrow this morning. "I did not think when he was shocked that it was caused by any other trouble but from the electricity. I was standing very close to him in the boiler at the time and felt a slight shock when he

grasped the light cord. Bond shrunk altogether when the current passed through him and made a slight sound like a grunt. I jumped out of the boiler and ran to the switch and turned off the current and rushed back to the boiler and lifted Bond out. They applied first aid from the office and summoned a physician and the pulmotor." *The Hutchinson News, Monday, February 25, 1918. Page 2.*

MORTON EMPLOYEE IS ELECTROCUTED

Carl Nelson Bailey, 36, loader at the Morton Salt plant, was electrocuted about 8:30 o'clock this morning while engaged in operating a loader at the salt plant. Death apparently was instantaneous, an attending physician reported. A fellow workman noticed Bailey's body slumped over the loader where he was working and summoned assistance. Officials of the salt plant were at a loss to explain how Bailey came in contact with enough electricity to cause his death, Victor Whiteside, manager living at 102 Crescent Blvd., said.

Indications were that in some manner Bailey came in contact with an electric current from a cable which supplies the juice to operate the loader. The cable is believed to have become defective although every precaution has been taken to guard against danger of live wires, Mr. Whiteside said.

Bailey lived with his family at 220 East Campbell street. His wife, Mrs. **Lenora Bailey**, and three daughters, whose ages range from two to seven years, are visiting Mrs. Bailey's mother at Cabool, Missouri. Her health has not been good, neighbors said, and she left Hutchinson to be away from flood effects.

Besides his family the deceased man is survived by a brother at Elkhart, his mother, father, and another brother, who live in Colorado. The Bailey family moved to Hutchinson about a year ago, the father finding employment at the salt plant last September. Friesen funeral parlor is in charge of the body. Burial will be in the Cabool Cemetery. *The Hutchinson News, Friday, July 26, 1929.*

CHESTER ARTHUR GLOVER

J.B. Bourgette of Augusta arrived last evening, bringing to Hutchinson the body of **C.A. Glover** of Colorado Springs, who was electrocuted Friday when he came in contact with some wires charged by a cyclonic storm. The body was buried in Memorial Park cemetery, at the request of his daughter, **Mrs. Cecil Hamer**, following a brief service at the Johnson parlors this afternoon. Funeral rites were held yesterday morning in Colorado Springs, and were attended by the city's entire municipal staff, on which Mr. Glover served as superintendent of the electrical department. *The Hutchinson News, June 15, 1932.*

MARTIN S. MERCER

Martin S. Mercer, manager of the Pretty Prairie telephone exchange, was electrocuted last evening when he came in contact with a live wire. Just how the accident occurred The News was unable to learn as the wires are down between here and Pretty Prairie. It was said that Mercer was just taking over the exchange managership and was to assume the office today. *The Hutchinson News, Friday, August 1, 1919.*



LINEMAN'S NECK BROKEN IN FALL

Harvey Lee Brown, a lineman employed by the United Water, Gas, & Electric Co., who was instantly killed by being electrocuted, while working on a high voltage line near Lyons, Wednesday, will be laid at rest at Lyons tomorrow, the funeral being at 2:30, tomorrow afternoon.

The deceased was an overseas veteran, being one of the "charter members" of the Supply Co., 137th Inf., when it was organized in Hutchinson. A number of his comrades of the 35th division in Hutchinson will attend the funeral.

Brown went overseas with the 110th Field Signal battalion, in the 35th division, transferring to the signal battalion from the Supply Co. at Camp Doniphan. He was an active member of the American Legion post at Lyons, and also was stable sergeant of the field artillery battery at Lyons in the National Guard. His wife died only a few months ago.

The deceased was 25 years of age and is survived by his parents, **Mr. and Mrs. W.D. Brown**, of Lyons. The American Legion post will have charge of his funeral tomorrow, burial being with full military honors.

Brown met his death while trimming tree branches along the high voltage power line running from Lyons to Little River, about five miles northeast of Lyons. He had climbed into a tall cottonwood tree to remove a branch which had grown out toward the line and was in danger of coming in contact with the wire, causing a short circuit. As he cut the branch loose the tips of the limbs came in contact with the 33,000 volt conductor and an unlooked for short circuit was formed. The current passed through Brown's body, stunning him. He lost his hold and fell to the ground, a distance of more than 20 feet. He struck the ground on his head and shoulders. His neck was broken.

Lineman Stalb, at whose feet the unfortunate man fell, immediately attempt to revive him by administering first aid while Line Foreman **Don Jennings** attached a telephone and summoned an ambulance. All attempts to revive Brown failed and his death occurred before the arrival of the ambulance. *The Hutchinson Kansan, Hutchinson Kansas. Friday, May 19, 1922. Page 9.*

A CHANCE TO BE ELECTROCUTED HERE

Some of those rainy, wet nights somebody is liable to be electrocuted walking along the street at the corner of the **William Rank** home, 820 North Washington street, Mr. Rank fears. The electric wires that supply the arc light at the corner of Ninth and Washington, pass through a row of trees in front of the Rank home. When it is raining, and the trees wet, and the wind blows the wires and boughs, there is a regular fireworks display there, Mr. Rank said.

"I touched a tree there one evening, when it was raining, and got a very bad shock," he said. "It is very dangerous. During storms the wires burn the branches and firebrands are thrown all around. Last Sunday night during the storm I found a burning limb on my porch roof." Manager Quillin of the electric light company said there is no way to get the wires along that street except to go through Ranks's trees as they are now using the highest poles they can get. He wanted to cut out the tops of Rank's trees, but he wouldn't stand for it.

"They can carry these wires around by way of Tenth," he declared. "It will be a lot less expensive than paying a big damage suit." Commissioner of Utilities L.D. Ferguson said he had investigated and found there was no question about the damage. "These are nice trees, and they are being burned, and it is not safe," he said. "The light company says the only way out is to cut out the arc light at that corner." *The Hutchinson News, Hutchinson Kansas. Wednesday, April 27, 1921. Page 3.*



HORSE AND DOG ELECTROCUTED IN WATER

The trained horse, "**Johnny**" known as the "**Horse with human brains,**" owned by **Bert Briggs**, trainer, was electrocuted at the Kansas State Fairgrounds this morning. A dog, belonging to the trainer, a playfellow of the pony, also lost his life in the same manner. Mr. Briggs was driving the horse to a buggy and drove into a puddle of water, which turned out to be highly charged with electricity, probably from a wire that was down because of the recent storm. When the animal had gone into the puddle a short distance he fell over dead. The dog, playing, ran to the horse, and also was immediately killed. Mr. Briggs sat in the buggy until a way was found to pull the rig out of the water, as he might have followed the animals if he had tried to get into the water, as he might have followed the animals if he had tried to get into the water.

The Fair grounds are covered with water, there being puddles everywhere. There were naturally some wires down, as there has been much wire trouble there as well as other places in the city the past few days. Going into the water threw the current into the animals, is the belief of **Charles H. Stewart**, county clerk, who has a string of saddle horses out at the grounds. *The Hutchinson News. March 13, 1922.*

INSURANCE MAN IS ELECTROCUTED

Perley Plummer Sidwell, 54, a life insurance salesman was electrocuted while alone in his home at 115 Twelfth Ave. west yesterday afternoon while wrapped in an electric blanket. Burns on the back of the neck showed where the electricity had entered his body. Mr. Sidwell complained of a cold yesterday and although he was well enough to be down town during the morning and to make a business trip to the country, he decided in the afternoon to stay at home and break up the cold. He was wrapped up in the blanket by Mrs. Sidwell and the current turned on, Mrs. Sidwell cautioning her husband to turn off the heat in 45 minutes. She then left the house to go down town on an errand and when she returned home, went into the house with the woman with whom she had been shopping. She found her husband dead, still wrapped in the blanket. Whether he went to sleep and perspiration around the neck caused a short circuit will never be known. Physicians were called but he was beyond relief. Mr. Sidwell came to Hutchinson in 1914 and opened an insurance and collection agency. He was active in the Christian Church work. Surviving him is his widow, Mrs. **Reba Sidwell**, two brothers living in Illinois, one brother in Iowa, and three sisters in Texas. Funeral services will be held from the Johnson Funeral Parlors tomorrow afternoon at 3 o'clock with **Rev. Claude Miller** in charge and the body will be taken to the train and Mrs. Sidwell will accompany the remains to the old home at Fairfield, Illinois, where burial will take place. *The Hutchinson News. October 29, 1929.*

Children Saved As Pets Are Killed. Three dogs and a cat probably saved the lives of some of the small children who live in the neighborhood around Fifth and Monroe last night by running up against two guy wires from the electric light circuit that were not insulated, and being instantly electrocuted. The dead animals attracted the attention of people around there, and in that way the wires were noticed and reported before any children were killed while playing around them. A short circuit was discovered in the wires. Several people who were passing by and who noticed the dead dogs were heard to express the opinion that the dog catcher must have been at work around there. *The Hutchinson News. Tuesday, September 18, 1928. Page 5.*

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