

ELECTRIC CURRENT ⁶⁻⁴ CLAIMS YOUNG LIFE

6-23-1914

The fatal touch of the electric current sent Carl Saunders in an instant's time from the land of the living last Saturday morning. Carl was 19 years old, the son of Mr. and Mrs. G. L. Saunders. Mr. Saunders is manager for the Interior Telephone Company and Carl was working for the company when the accident happened which cost him his life.

It does not take long to tell the story of the tragedy. The scene was a telephone pole on Tenth Avenue at the alley intersection between Main and Broad streets. Carl had been up the pole twice before that morning. Finally about 9:30 o'clock he drove the company's Ford car, in which C. N. Bell, the company's wire chief was riding, beneath the pole. "I'll just run up this pole again," he said, "and then I'll drive you down to the office." He hurried up the pole and Mr. Bell sat in the car below and waited.

In a minute or so he happened to look up carelessly and was horrified to see the boy's body hanging over the cross arm of the pole. Mr. Bell rushed up the pole, saw that the body was lying clear of any wires, then gave the alarm to several of the company's men working in the next block. The electric current was speedily turned off from the power plant. Mr. Saunders was notified and hurrying to the scene of the accident mounted the fatal pole and himself superintended the lowering of his son's body by ropes to the ground.

Several physicians were on hand speedily and for three hours the fight for life was continued, but vainly. Finally it was admitted that Death had won the struggle.

The only mark on the boy's body was a burn on the left knee and the best explanation of the tragedy seems to be that in taking his seat astride the cross arm of the pole his left knee came in contact with a joint in the wire carrying an electric current of 2,300 volts. Death is believed to have been instantaneous; at least the boy suffered no pain and was unconscious after the first shock.

The funeral, held from the home, 1505 West street, at 2:30 o'clock yesterday afternoon, was private except to the family and closest friends. Professors Charles Noble and J. D. Stoops conducted the services. Miss Helen Thomson sang. The pallbearers, all boy friends of Carl's, were Ralph and Edward Pottle, Rodger Alley, Clyde King, Harry Adkins and Floyd Stoaks. Interment was in Hazelwood cemetery.