

Friday, October 8, 1943

Telephone Company Lineman Is Killed Edward J. Schultz Funeral on Monday

Funeral services will be held Monday morning at 9 o'clock at the St. Mary's Catholic Church for Edward J. Schultz, 27, lineman for the Citizens Telephone Company here, who was electrocuted near Berne late Thursday.

Rev. J. J. Seimetz will officiate and burial will be in the Decatur Catholic Cemetery.

The young man died instantly shortly before 3 pm Thursday when he accidentally came in contact with a 6,600 volt electrical line while installing telephone service at a farm home, one mile south of Berne, recently purchased by O. N. Smith of that town.

County Coroner Robert J. Zwick, who investigated said death came instantly by electrocution. The story of the accident was given to Coroner Zwick by Chester Heare, 36, another employee of the company, who was working with the victim.

Heare told Coroner Zwick that they were stringing the telephone line on poles of the Indiana Service Corporation, as is customary after securing permission and that they were working on the last pole - a pole which held the ISC transformer, designed to cut the power from 6,600 volts to the customary 110 house voltage.

Heare said that Schultz climbed the pole and that he went to the barn nearby to secure some material. Heare said he heard a noise and turned to see Schultz hanging on the pole, smoking curling from his body. Rushing to the spot, he said he could see that Schultz had not survived and immediately drove into Berne to get Norbert Hoffman, an ISC worker, to turn off the current. Hoffman turned off the current and cut down Schultz's body, then nagging on a safety belt after a wire burned away and the current released him.

Investigation disclosed that both of the victim's hands were severely burned, as were his right leg and left arm.

Heare called his father, Charles Heare, superintendent of the company in this city soon after the incident and Mr. Heare went to the site immediately. Last rites were administered by Rev. J. J. Seimetz at the scene.

Mr. Heare said that this was the first fatality for the company in his 42 years as superintendent and only the second incident of its kind. A Berne man was injured about a decade ago. Regarding yesterday's casualty, he said that the creosoted pole, in which the victim spurs were hooked, formed a perfect ground for the entire voltage.

Schultz had worked for the telephone company for the past four years, Mr. Hearn said. He had been sent to Berne yesterday to aid Chester Heare in installing the line, after the latter suffered a sprained ankle.

The victim is survived by his parents, Julius and Isabelle Bernard Schultz, of South of Decatur; the widow, Esther Geimer Schultz; two children, Caroline and Edward; four sisters, Mrs. Mary Geimer and Mrs. Naomi Tricker of near here; Vera and Juliann at home; two brothers, Raymond and John of near Decatur.

He was a graduate of Decatur Catholic High School and was a member of the St. Mary's Catholic Church, of the Holy Name Society and of the Loyal Order of Moose. His father is a member of the county council.

The body was to be removed to the residence, three miles east of Decatur, from the Gillig & Doan Funeral Home late this afternoon.

Monday, August 23, 1943

Albert Schneck, 65, Dies in Wisconsin

Sister, Mrs. Ralph Stager Gets Message Today Noon; Burial Thurs.

A telegram to Mrs. Ralph Stager this noon informed her of the death of her brother, Albert Schneck, 65, of Barneveld, Wisconsin, where he passed away this morning following an illness since last February of heart trouble and dropsy.

The body is being returned to Fort Wayne, the message stated where funeral services will be held on Thursday, however arrangements are not complete.

Mr. Schneck spent the greater part of his life in that city as a salesman and a realtor.

He was born at Elkton, Missouri, on June 18, 1878, a son of Abraham and Lena Bixel Schneck. He came to Berne while a boy of about 12 and for several years made his home with Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Lehman after the death of his mother. Since his late teens, he has not resided here.

He is survived by his widow, the former Miss Appy Jones, a native of Barneveld, and two daughters, Janis on whose ninth birthday he died and Marguerite. Two sisters, Mrs. Ira Lee Gregory and Mrs. Nielsen both of Portland, Oregon and a half-sister, Mrs. Stager here and a half-brother Ivan Schneck of Chicago.

Tuesday, July 27, 1943

BIRTHS

Mr. and Mrs. James Kocher, Jr. of Mercer Avenue are the parents of a baby girl, born early last evening at the Adams County Memorial Hospital. She weighed seven pounds, five and one-half ounces and has been named Mary Katharine. This is the second daughter in the family.

Adams County Historical Museum

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Transcribed by Jim Cox