

It seems to me that all accidents were related in full detail and this sawmill accident illustrates:

"September 20, 1901, TERRIBLE SAWMILL ACCIDENT"  vj

Body of Frank Wisner nearly cut in two by a saw. On Monday morning Frank Wisner met with a terrible death by being cut entirely in two with a saw, in F. C. Ingham's mill on Sec. 18, Hartwick Twp. Mr. Wisner, who was saw setter in the mill, attempted to catch a log rolling down on the skidway but failed. The log struck a post from under the corner of the mill and a portion of the building fell, carrying him backward on the saw and he was cut thru the left arm and his body entirely severed from under the left shoulder to the top of the right shoulder with the exception of a small portion of flesh on the back of the neck, causing instant death. Mr. Wisner, 35, is married and leaves a wife and child. He owns a place on Sec. 17 in Hartwick and was much thought of as a man and a neighbor. The terrible affair has cast a gloom over the community.

George Glerum, County Clerk, announced that he would be at Sears between trains, Oct. 18, and Evart, Oct. 19, to sell deer licenses. He would also sell deer licenses and save a trip to the County Seat.

Davy & Company fitted up a waiting parlor adjoining their grocery dept., furnished with rugs, couch, chairs, table and other conveniences for tired women and children where they could wait, eat lunch, or read a magazine. A great convenience appreciated by the patrons of the popular establishment.


Saturday was a great trading day. A citizen counted 139 farmers' vehicles on Main St. Saturday.

We learned that in October, 1900, 132 carloads of freight were dispatched at the station and in October, 1901, 178 cars, or an increase of 46 cars. An estimate of money paid out here for potatoes this fall was \$45,000.

The Knights and Lady Maccabees dedicated their new hall in the Lacy block.

The light plant was inadequate as in 1901 the street lights had to be turned off when business places were open.

We have mentioned the many mills in the area and the accidents but none can compare with the following article taken from the Review. Mr. Fred Rowe recalls seeing the sleigh load of bodies passing close to his father's house as they left the mill site.

"Probably the most terrible casualty ever occurring in Osceola County was that caused by the explosion of the steam boiler at Marsh and Kennan's sawmill located on Hicks Lake, Hartwick Township, nine miles north of Evart, on Monday, January 11, 1904, by which seven men lost their lives and three men were severely injured." 

At the time of the accident nine of the men employed in the mill were engaged in eating their dinner, which on account of the distance from the cook's shanty had been brought to them by the chore boy who was also in the filing room, making ten in all, when without notice the boiler exploded

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and in an instant of time the mill was torn asunder and six men had been killed instantly. Peter Vickery who was driving a team nearby and Sam England, the mill foreman, who was eating his dinner in a shanty a few rods away, were probably the only witnesses. They hastened to the terrible scene where the torn and mangled men, machinery and debris lay scattered about, and soon as help arrived the work of rescue began. The wounded were taken to Camp 20, where they were given attention, and Drs. Cannon of Dighton, and Bryson of Tustin were summoned.

Those instantly killed were: Wm. M. Bradley, laborer, 18 years old, single, son of Geo. Bradley, of Osceola Twp., head smashed beyond recognition, identified by clothing.

L. L. Noyse, engineer, married, wife and two children, home near Orono, this county, back of head blown off and nearly every bone in his body broken.

Edwin Powers, laborer, 28 years, unmarried, father lives in Sylvan Twp., south and east of the Grindstone bridge, one leg and arm broken and head badly crushed.

Glen Dalton, age 19, setter, single, residence Hartwick, back of head blown off.

Martin L. Chase, said to have been known as Lew Chase, and reported as Wm. Chase, sawyer, age 40 years, leaves wife and four children. Head partially blown off.

Horton Patton, injured, died at ten o'clock Monday night, lumber sorter, Millbrook, 40 years old, wife and three children, injuries on head and internally.

The injured were: Delbert Douglas, laborer, 18 years, single. Injury on back of head, recovery doubtful, father and brother took him to their home near Sawyerville on Tuesday.

Wm. Wood, Dighton, laborer, family, least injured, was taken to his home Monday afternoon.

Phillip Laske, chore boy, cook shanty camp 20, 28 years, married, has family at Manistee, ribs broken.

Justice of the Peace, L. P. Cole of Hartwick, held an inquest upon the the dead, the following being called in as jury men: Val Pantz, Reed City; Dan Morrison, Evart; John Hume, Avondale; A. F. Niles, Evart; Manley Shearer, Dighton; Albert Swanson, Tustin. Peter Vickery was appointed special constable. The jury's finding was unanimous that deaths were caused by accidental explosion of the boiler. The Review editor accompanied Mr. G. R. Tummonds to the scene of the disaster Mon. evening. The building in which the accident occurred was 20x60 feet, being long way north and south; on the east side of this was the small room used for filing, etc. and in which the men were eating their dinner. The explosion separated the boiler head from the boiler and it was thrown in an easterly direction, crushing and crashing through the little room and landed about 12 to 15 rods away and remained standing on end lodged against a large tree. Every man in the building was killed or injured. The flying boiler seems to have left the ground, as it passed entirely over a horse belonging to Val Pantz, which was tied on the east side of the mill and in direct line of its passage, and with such force as to

cut off all obstacles with which it came in contact. Flues were thrown 8 yards through the south end of the building and large timbers were cut off and thrown in every direction.

It will be difficult to determine the cause of the accident as the engineer was killed, but it is believed, on account of the defective boiler which was a condemned boiler taken from the Reed City water works. The story that the village had guaranteed the boiler is denied by the authorities at Reed City. The fact that the mill had been running for just five days would indicate that there is just ground for belief that the shell was rotten and its use would seem to be one for which someone should be held responsible.

The loss of property is estimated at \$10,000. The engine and machinery are badly damaged. None of the men carried insurance.

The dead and wounded were taken to Camp 20 where the wounded were given all possible care and the dead were prepared for burial by undertaker Wilber Kidder of Tustin.

The brothers of Patton arrived in Evert Tuesday morning and were driven to the scene of the accident and returning Tues. night bringing their brother's remains, and after changing horses here, drove to Barryton where they again changed horses and reached home Tuesday night, at Millbrook, making the drive of 47 miles. This drive was made necessary because the township authorities were unable to furnish proper death certificates, being without blanks, to allow the body to be sent by rail.

The remains of Powers were claimed by his relatives and taken to the home in south Sylvan township. The bodies of Albert Veeder, Mark T. Chase, Glen Dalton and Matthew Bradley were interred in Maple Valley Cemetery, Avondale, after services at the brick church on Wed. evening. The services were conducted by three ministers, Rev. Brimcomb, Chatfield, and Searls.

Mr. Kennan, one of the owners of the mill, Mr. Shields, foreman of the camp, and L. M. Johnson, bookkeeper, Geo. W. Bennett, clerk of the township and others, rendered all aid possible, those mentioned being especially active."

Just one week later, Lee Proctor, son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Proctor, was killed in an accident in the woods - a limb falling and killing him and another mill accident opposite Riverside Park, killing one man.

There were as previously mentioned several pleasure craft on the river. Mr. and Mrs. G. B. Wilson had a motor yacht, the "Eva Lynn," and frequently went up as far as Grindstone house and return. Mrs. S. Wall recalls going with them on several occasions. Spencer Postal and party made a 40 mile trip upstream and return one sunny day.

A ship company from Milwaukee planned to supply a line of pleasure boats up and down the river but plans did not materialize. We never learned what became of the North Star that started out so well.

The Arndt twins, Jacob of Hartwick, (Township Treasurer), and George of Osceola, (Township Treasurer) were so identical that the County Treasurer would not do business with either one without proper identification.

In 1904, Mark Ardis sold his stock of merchandise to Robert Ardis of McBain, who continued the business here.