

LOWELL, MICH, THURSDAY, MARCH 19, 1953

# Power Line Accident Tuesday Fatal to Leo A. Hoover, Foreman As He Contacts 6900-Volt Wire



Leo Hoover of Lowell  
Fatally Stricken

Sudden and tragic death struck down Leo A. Hoover, 38, Lowell Municipal Plant line foreman when he accidentally came in contact with 6900 volts of electricity Tuesday morning while working a few miles west of Par-nell.

Leo, an employee of the plant since 1943, was called to the John M. VanDriel home at 9431 5 Mile Rd., about midnight Monday and found the transformer burned out. He returned Tuesday morning with other Lowell Power employees, Elmer Layer and Robert Steward, to install a new transformer.

The men reported that Leo volunteered to disconnect the old transformer while the other two men prepared the new one and set up the block and tackle to hoist it up the pole. Just a few minutes after climbing the pole the two heard the sputtering of high voltage and saw Hoover sag back in his safety belt unconscious. Elmer Layer immediately climbed up the pole and brought Hoover down with the block and tackle, assisted by Robert Steward. Layer was forced to cut Hoover's safety belt loose from the pole before he could be lowered.

## Attempts to Revive Failed

On the ground he was wrapped in blankets and artificial respiration was administered. Aid was summoned from Rockford and Lowell and respirators were brought and used to start breathing. Hoover was rushed to Butterworth hospital in Grand Rapids with a police escort and although he was dead on arrival there physicians attempted to

revive him by massaging his heart but all efforts failed.

Thomas Moore, superintendent of the Lowell Municipal plant, said investigation showed that Hoover had placed rubber hose over the main power line, and that he was wearing rubber gloves. For some reason, Hoover had climbed higher than is normal for such work; Moore said, and his elbow first contacted the live wire.

Leo was born to John and Elizabeth Hoover on August 9, 1914 at their farm home in Keene township and has spent his entire life in and around Lowell and vicinity. He graduated from Lowell high school with the class of 1931 and started work with Lowell Municipal Light & Power in December, 1943.

Surviving besides his wife, Maxine, are four daughters, Sally, 13; Jane, 11; Mary Ann, 10, and Jill, 8; one sister, Mrs. Catherine Powers of Jackson; eight brothers, Andrew of Lansing; Henry and George of Pontiac; Michael of Grand Rapids; Aloysius of Ionia; and Jacob, Ernest and Gerald of Lowell.

Services will be held Friday at 9:30 a. m. in St. Mary's Church, Lowell, with burial in St. Mary's Cemetery. Arrangements are by the Roth Funeral Home.

## Second Fatal Accident

This is the second fatal accident in the history of the plant in over fifty years. Scott Fox, village lineman, was killed while working on the village power lines at the corner of W. Main and Hudson Sts. in the early 90's.



## Leo Hoover of Lowell Fatally Stricken

Lowell—Leo Hoover, 37, father of four school-age daughters, was dead on arrival at Butterworth hospital Tuesday morning after coming in contact with a 6,900-volt power line owned by the Lowell Light & Power Co.

The accident occurred while Hoover and other employees of the municipal light plant were installing a new transformer at Five-Mile rd. and McCabe rd., about one and one-half miles southeast of Townsend park.

A transformer had burned out Monday evening.

Robert Stewart, who with Elmer Layer, were installing the new transformer, said the Hoover was on the pole when he came in contact with the 6,900-volt line. The force of the shock knocked Hoover free from the wire, but he swung back against it, again being knocked free. Hoover was knocked unconscious. Stewart climbed the pole and cut Hoover from his climbing harness and lowered him to the ground.

Hoover was administered oxygen at the scene and a Blanchard ambulance was summoned to take the unconscious man to Butterworth hospital.



## Electrocuted

Leo A. Hoover, 37, of Lowell, father of four school-age daughters, was electrocuted Tuesday morning when he came into contact with a 7,200-volt power line owned by Lowell Municipal Utilities. Hoover, with two other employees of the utilities company, was installing a transformer at Cannonsburg Rd. and McCabe Rd., when the accident occurred.



# Obituary

**HOOVER**—Leo Hoover, aged 38, passed away unexpectedly Tuesday, March 17. He is survived by his wife, Maxine; four daughters, Sally, Jane, Mary Ann and Jill, all at home; eight brothers, George and Henry Hoover of Pontiac, Aloysius of Ionia, Andrew of Lansing, Michael of Grand Rapids, Gerald, Ernest and Jake, all of Lowell; one sister, Mrs. Catherine Powers of Jackson. His body reposes at the Roth Funeral Home, 305 North Hudson st., Lowell, where friends will meet Wednesday and Thursday evenings at 8 o'clock to recite the Rosary. Funeral services will be held Friday at 9:30 a. m. from St. Mary's church, Lowell. Interment St. Mary's cemetery.

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