

– NATIONAL WORKERS MEMORIAL DAY –

APRIL 28, 2012

**LISTED BELOW ARE THE NAMES OF THE WORKERS AND
MEMBERS OF OUR BROTHERHOOD WHO HAVE GIVEN THE
ULTIMATE SACRIFICE FOR THEIR LIVELIHOOD. LET US NEVER
FORGET THE WORKERS AND THEIR FAMILIES WHO HAVE
SUFFERED FROM THESE ACCIDENTS.**

**LET THE LIGHT OF PERSEVERANCE GUIDE US TO GENERATE A
SAFE WORKPLACE
IN THIS ELECTRICAL INDUSTRY.**

AND MAY NO NAME BE ADDED TO THIS LIST.



1	Eric F. Pritchard, an Electrical Mechanic in Station Electrical Construction, with four years of service and one year of experience, was installing a fault buss at Calumet Station on May 11, 1930, when a short circuit and flash occurred, causing third degree burns to his body leading to his death.
2	Otto Barnhouse, a Construction Laborer with four months of experience, was struck and killed by a falling generator stack on May 17, 1930 in Niles, Illinois.
3	Ernest Clark, a Construction Lineman in Joliet with one and one-half years of service and an unknown amount of experience, suffered a fatal shock from an electrical contact from a phase wire to his right arm just below the shoulder and at his right leg touching a telephone wire on June 17, 1930. He died 138 days later on November 1, 1930.
4	George M. Prouty, a High Tension Repairmen in the Oil Switch Repair Department, with one year of service and experience, was thrown eighteen feet and killed on June 22, 1930 when he came in contact with an energized high tension wire at Northwest Station in Chicago.
5	Chester E. Paugels, an Operating Lineman 3rd Class in Northern Division with three years of service and two and one-half years of experience, was working in Evanston when he received an electric shock on December 12, 1930. Without wearing rubber gloves, he was attempted to a place rubber hose on an energized 2300 volt bare wire located in a tree.

6	John E. Vibelius, an Electrical Mechanic with six years of service and experience, was riding in a Company car in Lockport on June 19, 1931. While attempting to pass another car, the Company car pulled off the road to the left and was hit by an oncoming car. Vibelius died the next day.
7	William S. Sullivan, a Construction Lineman 2nd Class in the Maywood Construction Department with seven years of service and four years of experience, contacted energized equipment on a pothead pole in Oak Park on August 17, 1931. He fell to the concrete, breaking his neck, fracturing his skull and losing his life.
8	James W. Currie, an Operating Department Troubleman in Northern Division with ten years of service and experience, contacted an energized street light circuit on November 22, 1931 in Evanston. He fell to the concrete and died en route to the hospital.
9	Walter Koplin, a Lineman in the Line Department with one year of service and experience, was electrocuted by contact to a 4160 volt primary wire and a grounded wire while working in Genoa on an unknown date in 1931.
10	Walter E. Carlson, an Electrical Maintenance Man in the Station Electrical Construction Department with nine years of service and three years of experience, received a severe shock and burns while climbing to paint an oil switch at Crystal Lake Substation #86 on November 9, 1932. His head contacted a 33,000 volt transformer lead. He died the following day.
11	Winfield L. Houran, a Tax Supervisor in the Secretary's Office with eleven years of service and eight years of experience, was driving on a wet road in Wheaton on December 6, 1932. The car skidded off the road, sideswiped a culvert and hit a tree. His fatal injuries included a skull fracture.
12	George F. Price, a Lineman in the Line Department with six months service and experience, was untying energized phase wires in Mt. Morris, Ogle County on an unknown date in 1932. One of the wires had contacted a bolt which energized a cross-arm brace. He received an electrical shock from the energized brace.
13	John Wilson, a Street Lineman at District #3 in Chicago with fifteen years of service and experience, fell from a transformer platform, on February 27, 1935, at South Chicago Avenue and Dante while connecting a neutral. He suffered a skull fracture which caused his death.
14	Henry J. Schuldt, a Lineman 2nd Grade at District #3 in Chicago with thirteen years of service and eleven years of experience, was injured when a pile of cement bags fell onto his back while he was digging in a hole at 52nd Street and Hoyne Avenue on October 8, 1935. He was paralyzed from the waist down and permanently disabled. He later died from uremic poisoning.

15	Daniel Koladick, a Street Lineman at District #2 in Chicago with nineteen years of service and sixteen years of experience, suffered a fractured skull that ended his life when he fell from a pole at State and Division Streets on February 26, 1936.
16	Lester F. Lane, a Cable Splicer in the Joliet Division Operating Department with fourteen years of service and nine years of experience, suffered a lethal electric shock on March 7, 1936 when he contacted an energized wire above a pothead with one hand and a grounded cable with his other hand.
17	Ernest F. Black, a Northern Division Operating Lineman with thirteen years of service and ten years of experience, was handling "wires down" on August 10, 1936, when he either stumbled or walked onto an energized wire and then fell onto a fence. The electrical contact was fatal.
18	Wilfred V. Corbell, Construction Electrician at Humboldt Park Substation in Chicago with one year of service and experience, passed away on unknown date. He claimed that a growth in his chest was caused by contact with asbestos in 1936. The accident is recorded as occurring on November 13, 1936.
19	Mervin Munson, a Lineman with less than seven years of experience, was electrocuted by contact with a transformer primary lead on an unknown date in 1936. The location of the accident is not recorded.
20	Peter J. Gregor, a Foreman 2nd Grade in Electrical Construction, with fourteen years of service and three years of experience, was fatally injured at Fisk Station on February 27, 1937. A short circuit in an oil switch set his clothing on fire. The resulting injuries caused his death.
21	Frank Rowling, an Operating Lineman in Northern Division with seventeen years of service and seven years of experience, was descending a ladder set at a tree in Lake Villa on March 16, 1937. The ladder fell while he still fourteen feet above the ground.
22	Stanley Sadjak, an Underground Construction Cable Splicer in the High Tension #2 Department in Chicago with fourteen years of service and eight years of experience, fell from a ladder while descending into manhole at 55th Place and Prairie Avenue on April 24, 1937.
23	Edward Kindinger, an Operating Lineman in Northern Division with eleven years of service and three and a half years of experience, was making a phase tap on July 22, 1937. His right arm, above the elbow, contacted a 2300 volt wire, while his left foot was touching a grounded service pipe.

24	Leroy A. Bergman, a Joliet Operating Lineman 2nd Class with eighteen years of service and two years of experience, climbed to the top of a pole on April 7, 1938. Before putting on his rubber gloves, he took hold of two energized 2300 volt wires and was electrocuted.
25	John C. Rakow, a Crystal Lake Operating Lineman 3rd Class with five and a half years of service and nine years of experience, was startled by an arc in the clock compartment of a regulator time switch on July 1, 1938. A safety strap was not used. He fell fourteen feet from the platform where he was working and suffered a broken neck that ended his life.
26	Glen O. Hayes, a Southern Division Operating Lineman 2nd Class with six years of service and one year of experience, was standing on a cross-arm putting his safety strap around the pole in Lacon, Marshall County on September 13, 1938. He lost his hand hold and fell to ground and died due to a fractured spine.
27	Robert A. Hurtienne, a Station Electrical Construction Mechanic in the Oil Switch Repair Department, with fifteen years of service and eight years of experience, was working at a 12,000 volt buss compartment on October 15, 1938 at Fisk Generating Station. The heavy buss compartment door fell and knocked him off a ladder. He fell approximately ten feet and suffered broken ribs. About seven days later, internal blood clots caused his death.
28	Alois F. Herbst, a Southern Division Operating Lineman with eleven years of service and experience, moved on a wood pole to give room to a second lineman on October 1, 1938. His body contacted a street light regulator clock while his right leg contacted a cutout jumper. He received an electrical shock and fell to the ground and died.
29	Nelson E. Buck, an Underground Superintendent with thirty-three years of service and twenty-three years of experience, was driving in foggy conditions at 87th and Cicero, Chicago when he was involved in a head-on crash with another car on December 5, 1938. His right leg and hand were fractured; he suffered severe lacerations and internal injuries. He died one week later on December 12, 1938.
30	John W. Carey, Substation Construction with five months of service and seniority, was electrocuted from a contact with a 33,000 volt bus in the Dixon Station switchyard on February 11, 1939.
31	Francis H. Burgess, a Watch Electrician in Generating Station Department with twelve years of service and three years of experience, was fatally burned when a main switch on a generator at Northwest Station (Chicago) exploded due to accidental grounding on May 25, 1939.

3²	Sherburn J. Fitzgerald, a 3rd Class Lineman in Overhead District #3, with fourteen years of service and ten years of experience, fell from a pole at 67th and Rhodes on June 29, 1939 and died. Unknown to him, his safety strap had disengaged. When he leaned back in his belt, he fell from the pole.
33	Edward Powers, a Lineman 3rd Class in the Line Department, with two and one-half years of service and one and one-half years of experience, was electrocuted when he contacted a primary on May 28, 1940.
34	Harry A. Drake, a Mechanic Class B, with eight years of service and two and one-half years of experience, was fatally injured on June 24, 1940 at Substation #67 in Mazon, Grundy County. While standing on a transformer removing potential fuses, he was killed when his right elbow contacted an energized 33,000 volt lead while his left arm rested on a copper tubing lead from the transformer to a fuse mounting.
35	Floyd McDonald, a Tree Trimmer in the Line Department, with four years of service and two years of experience, was working on November 7, 1940 with an axe in a tree in Mt. Morris. He fell twenty feet to the pavement when he accidentally cut his support rope, causing his skull to split open.
3⁶	Joseph A. Farris, a Station Mechanic with seventeen years of service and twelve years of experience, was fatally burned November 25, 1940 along with Joseph F. Ernst, when a copper buss shorted while they were removing asbestos covering from a 4,000 volt buss at Clifton Substation in Chicago.
37	Joseph F. Ernst, a Station Mechanic with six years of service and twelve years of experience, was fatally burned November 25, 1940 along with Joseph A. Farris, when a copper buss shorted while they were removing asbestos covering from a 4,000 volt buss at Clifton Substation in Chicago.
3⁸	Earl B. Demitt, a Mechanic 2nd Grade in Station Construction, with sixteen years of service and five years of experience, received fatal electrical burns to his right hand and forearm at while working at Front Street Substation in Chicago on April 10, 1941.
39	Lester Boone, a Lineman, 2nd Grade in the Line Department, with eleven years of service and experience, made contact between energized primary and secondary wires in Harvard, Illinois on April 13, 1941.
4⁰	Lawrence F. Gill, an Operating Lineman in Northern Division with nineteen years of service and twelve years of experience, died after contacting an energized primary phase wire and secondary tie wire while shifting his position on a pole. He received a shock and fell to the ground on September 23, 1941.

41	Ralph A. Johnson, a Turbine Operator at Crawford Generating Station with twelve years of service and seven and a half years of experience, suffered burns to his hands, arms and face on November 17, 1941 while working on top of a water box condenser.
42	Ralph L Richardson, an Electrical Engineer with sixteen years of service and fifteen years of experience, was struck by an oncoming car while he was making a left turn in Melrose Park. He died the next day, December 5, 1941.
43	Victor Rockovski, a Crane Operator at Calumet Generating Station in Chicago with nineteen and a-half years of service and eight years of experience, was working on a coal conveyor when he became tangled between a drive pulley and a belt and killed on January 5, 1942.
44	Donald R. Graybill, a Lineman 1st Class in the Line Department, with twelve years of service and four and a half years of experience, was electrocuted on May 20, 1942 when he contacted an energized primary while working in Lindenwood in Ogle County.
45	John A. Jansen, a Conveyor Operator at Waukegan Generating Station with seven years of service and five and a half years of experience, was severely burned while operating a tripper. His clothes were set on fire by an explosion in the bunker below. He died three days later on February 9, 1943.
46	Thomas W. Worswick, an Electric Operating Lineman with eleven years of Company service and thirteen years of experience, contacted the topmost conductor of a 33,000 volt line in Stickney, Illinois. He had completed his work further down on a tower and then climbed higher into the energized equipment.
47	Thomas E. Mack, an Electric Operating Lineman with six years of service and one and a half years of experience, was on a pole that had been straightened but where the surrounding earth was still removed on April 25, 1943. As a switch was being raised, the pole started to fall. Thomas Mack was electrocuted when he contacted an energized primary phase wire.
48	Thomas R. Humphrey, an Electric Operating Lineman in Pontiac, with seven years of service and two years of experience, was working in Cayuga in Livingston County on June 30, 1943. A tie wire touched his groin as he was tying in a primary phase wire. He fell across the primary conductors and was electrocuted by the conductor contacting his right arm above the rubber glove.

49	Kelly McDonald, an Electric Operating Lineman in Western Division, with fourteen years of service and four years of experience, was standing on the ground while taping an energized secondary wire in Bensenville on July 19, 1943. He contacted the energized wire with his bare left hand. He received a 198 volt shock across his body between his left hand and his feet.
50	William L. Juricic, a Mechanic Class B with thirteen years of service and three years of experience, was working at Joliet Generating Station on January 8, 1945. A length of one and half inch diameter metal conduit rolled while in the bender and struck him in his head at the temple. He continued working from 10:30 am until the normal quitting time. He died later that evening.
51	Floyd Coleman, a Boiler Operator 2 nd Grade with twenty-six years of service and twenty-four years of experience, was working at Fisk Generating Station on July 11, 1945. An economizer tube burst while he washing the tubes with water hose. The escaping steam and hot water scalded him and caused his death.
52	Andrea Basso, a Conveyor Attendant at Crawford Generating Station, Chicago, with twenty-two years of service and experience, was crushed to death by a coal conveyor belt on November 3, 1945.
53	William E. Falkenhagen, a Mechanic Class C in Western Division, with five years of service and six months of experience, had finished cleaning insulators in a cubicle at Elmhurst Substation on June 4, 1946. He then moved to work in the next cubicle. He was electrocuted by a contact with an oil circuit breaker that was energized by backfeed at 4,000 volts.
54	James MacMillan, a Mechanic 2 nd Grade with four years of service and one and a half years of experience, was working from a boatswain's chair at Powerton Generating Station on July 24, 1946 before he lost his life. He had placed his feet on an open window to steady his position. The sash chain holding the window broke. James MacMillan slid off the chair and fell twenty-five feet to the ground.
55	William L. Leachman, Jr, a Cable Helper in Construction District #1 with twenty years of service and eighteen years of experience, suffered fatal injuries that included a fractured skull and cerebral lacerations. A Jefferson Ice Company truck swerved out of the traffic lane in Chicago's Loop and struck him on February 3, 1947.
56	Raymond E. Hardy, a Grade B Clerk with eight years of service and five weeks of experience, fell through an access hole on April 29, 1947 at Calumet Generating Station. A grate section had been previously removed.

57	John Fleming, a Lineman 2 nd Grade in Line Construction, with four and a half years of service and two and a half months of experience, crossed over to the energized side of a steel structure in Sandwich Substation on November 19, 1947. He was electrocuted by contact with energized 33,000 volt equipment.
58	George L. Vanderhei, an A Mechanic in the Northern Division Substation Construction Department with nineteen years of service and two years of experience, was walking along the top of a transformer at Substation A-24 in North Chicago. His head contacted an energized 33,000 volt buss. He was shocked and fell to the ground.
59	Ralph R. Devore, a Senior Lineman in Southern Division Electric Operating Department with twenty-five years of service and two years of experience, was standing on the ground with his left hand on a wire fence in Aroma Park on November 4, 1948. The boom of a digger truck contacted a 2400 volt primary phase wire. The bottom part of the truck was touching the fence causing the fence to become energized. He was killed by the deadly current travelling between his hand and feet.
60	Raymond F. Mensching, a Lineman 1 st Class in Northern Division Electric Operating with nine years of service and one year of experience, was on a pole in Northlake and relocating a set of blocks to pull wire on June 15, 1950. His arm or hand contacted a 120 volt secondary phase. His other hand, or arm, or his body contacted the secondary neutral. He was electrocuted by a 120 volt shock.
61	Michael J. O'Brien, a Boiler Mechanic at Crawford Generating Station with twenty-nine years of service and twelve years of experience, was sitting on a scaffold with his legs hanging over the side on November 29, 1950. He died as a result of a fall. He either fell from his sitting position or fell when he attempted to rise.
62	Howard R. Dibble, a Lineman 1 st Class in Electric Operating in Northern Division with eleven years of service and four years of experience, was lowering primary wires from a pole in Grayslake on August 24, 1951. His right arm, above the elbow, contacted a 2400 volt primary phase while the neutral was against his legs above his knees. He was electrocuted.
63	Edmund J. Karls, a Lineman 2 nd Class in Electric Operating with eleven years of service and four years of experience, was repairing a broken 2300 volt wire in Harvard on December 15, 1951. He had temporarily removed one rubber glove. He was electrocuted by contacting the energized wire with his bare hand.
64	James H. Conroy, Jr., a Lineman 2 nd Class in Electric Operating with two and one half years of service and one month of experience, was electrocuted January 19, 1953 in Joliet. He sustained a 2400 volt shock across his hands when he opened the primary neutral while wearing damp canvass gloves.

65	Angus A. Ullock, a Principal Painter at Calumet Generating Station in Chicago with sixteen years of service and eight months of experience, plummeted from a beam to his death on April 1, 1953. The channel iron that he was holding onto gave way causing the fall.
66	Clarence L. Thompson, a Western Division Operating Lineman with twenty-five years of service and two and a half years of experience, was working on a pole in Oak Park when the pole fell on April 29, 1953. His head was crushed between the pole and the concrete alley.
67	Gerald R. Fortin, a Harvey Lineman 2nd Class with three and a half years of service and two and a half years of experience, was serving a secondary tie wire while leaning over secondary wires in Flossmoor on June 19, 1953. He was electrocuted by equipment energized at 220 volts by contact through his hands and his stomach.
68	Centerville Scott, a Boiler Cleaner at Crawford Generating Station with thirty-one years of service and experience, was killed when he fell twelve and one-half feet to the boiler room floor through an opening in the grating on November 30, 1953.
69	Thomas E. McGuire, an Electrical Construction Lineman in Chicago Central with eighteen years of service and six years of experience, was electrocuted in a vault at the Art Institute in Chicago on January 22, 1954. His hands were at ground potential while using a socket wrench on a cutout when his forehead contacted an exposed tap wire energized at 2160 volts.
70	Gerald J. Langdon, a Cable Handler in the Cable Department in Chicago Central with thirty-two years of service and eleven years of experience, collapsed when he lifted a manhole cover at 35th Street and Union in Chicago on May 5, 1954. He had previously suffered a heart attack.
71	Raymond H. Moch, an Electrical Construction Lineman in Chicago South with seven years of service and two months of experience, was electrocuted on June 9, 1954 at 63rd and Mozart while working on a capacitor. His left forearm contacted a capacitor tap wire energized at 2160 volts while his left thigh contacted the grounded capacitor case.
72	Terence Lennon, an Electrical Mechanic in the Station Electrical Construction Department with twenty-eight years of service and eleven years of experience, died, along with William E. Kenney, as a result of third degree burns he received at Fisk Station on October 19, 1954. He was testing 440 volt cables in a switchboard when a short circuit and arc-flash occurred.
73	William E. Kenney, a Mechanic 2nd Grade in the Station Electrical Construction Department with fourteen years of service and three and a half years of experience, died, along with Terence Lennon, as a result of third degree burns he received. A

	short circuit and arc-flash occurred while testing 440 volt cables in a switchboard at Fisk Station on October 19, 1954.
74	George A. Thorsen, a thirty-four year old Assistant Shift Engineer at Ridgeland Station with fifteen years of service and one year of experience, was fatally injured on December 19, 1954 along with Clarence T. Jorgensen when he was struck by turbine pieces that flew apart due to defective casting and centrifugal force.
75	<p>Clarence T. Jorgensen, a thirty-six year old Assistant Shift Engineer at Ridgeland Station with fifteen years of service and three years of experience, was fatally injured on December 19, 1954 along with George A. Thorsen when he was struck by turbine pieces that flew apart due to defective casting and centrifugal force.</p> <p>“People present the night of Dec. 19, 1954, and early the following morning, remember minute details, the way people remember exactly what they were doing the day of President Kennedy’s assassination.</p> <p>Vern Stone, in charge of all of Edison’s generating Stations, remembered that it was Sunday. He had gone downtown to the office to do some paperwork and planned to stop at Ridgeland on the way back home to watch the crew bring Unit 4 back on line after weekend maintenance on its boiler. His wife had offered to pack a lunch, but he wasn’t hungry. However, after working at his desk for a while, Stone did get hungry.</p> <p>‘I went out to little greasy spoon on Van Buren Street and had tuna fish salad sandwich, a piece of cherry pie, and a cup of coffee. I went back to the office, and as the afternoon wore on, I felt worse by the hour. When I left the office, it was with the intent of going to Ridgeland. I drove out Ogden Avenue, but when I got to Ridgeland Avenue to go over to the plant, I felt so sick that I went home. I decided that the fellas didn’t need me and all I was going to be was a bystander. I was in the bathroom, getting rid of the sandwich and the rest, when the call came in about the Ridgeland disaster.’</p> <p>‘It wasn’t pandemonium, but there was confusion because nobody knew what had occurred.’ According to Nick Kershaw, who worked as an assistant shift engineer that night. ‘There was a loud noise, a lot of black and gray smoke, and two people were dead.’</p> <p>The worst generating station accident in Edison history had occurred. At 11:19 p.m. the newest of the four 160,000 kilowatt turbogenerators at Ridgeland, the largest power plant in the Midwest, was ripped apart by an explosion that sent chunks of metal flying about the turbine room and through the roof. Flying debris killed two employees immediately. The victims, 34-year-old George Thorsen and 36-year-old Clarence Jorgensen, like Kershaw, were shift engineers. Six other workers suffered injuries or shock. Workers had to shut down the other three units, damaged by the explosion, leaving Edison without its largest single source of power for Christmas week, then the traditional period of peak demand.</p> <p>The projectiles that caused much of the damage came from the 40-ton turbine spindle. One piece tore through one part of the turbine room roof and returned through another, shearing a large pipe off the condenser on Unit 1. Another chunk flew through the roof and buried itself in the coal pile outside the plant. Still another fragment that weighed some 200 pounds pierced the roof and sailed estimated three-quarters of a mile into the air, imbedding itself in a residential street a half-mile from the station and barely missing the houses.</p>

‘The roof was kind of messy,’ Kershaw remembers. ‘You could see the great outdoors through it.’

‘That was a gruesome sight when I went in there that night,’ Stone recalled. ‘I knew the fathers of both of the men who were killed. I had encouraged them to go to school, and they did. They both graduated. Good students. Fine boys. It was just sickening.’

Normally, Thorsen’s and Jorgensen’s shift would have gone off duty at 11. It was standard procedure for a shift synchronizing a unit to the system to turn it over to the shift coming on duty if they hadn’t completed the job. However, the 3-to-11 shift boss, Bill Nicholl, had decided to keep his management team on the job past quitting time to clear up a problem with a mechanical vacuum trip, an automatic emergency shutoff device. In addition, since Jorgensen was performing the startup tests for the first time, Nicholl wanted to make certain he understood the process.

The unit had a low pressure and high pressure turbine. Bill Griesshammer, positioned at the throttle and stop valves at the head of the machine, controlled the unit. Nicholl stood between Griesshammer and Jorgensen, shoulder-to-shoulder, while Thorsen leaned on the low pressure turbine casing, reading instruments and relaying signals to verify the test results. Another station hand, Carl Stone, and a representative of Allis-Chalmers, manufacturer of the unit, also stood in the vicinity. Edison’s non-management people who were working the job had knocked off at 11, adjourning to a nearby restaurant to celebrate Joe DeLeo’s promotion from senior control operator to assistant shift engineer. So fortunately, they could return quickly to the plant to help restore order.

Griesshammer was to roll the turbines, synchronize the speed, then turn the unit over to the control room. He had finished testing the high pressure turbine and was bring the low up to the appointed speed when “the low pressure turbine shell just exploded,” according to Nicholl. “The whole thing went through the ceiling,” leaving a glowing blue-green hydrogen trail rising from the unit in the wake of the projectiles. The main force of the blast tore through the sides of the machine, taking out Thorsen and Jorgensen. Nicholl suffered a broken foot and little pieces of shrapnel embedded in his stomach and both legs.

‘I was down at the vacuum trip, on top of the oil tank, with Barney Duggan, one of the other units’ shift engineers, trying to figure out what the problem was.’ Kershaw recalled. ‘We were about 50 to 75 feet from where the rotor came apart, so the noise was quite heavy down there. We were shielded by the concrete foundation which was between us and the rupturing cylinder.’

Before long, Kershaw was joined by Griesshammer, who had broken his leg. “I wouldn’t believe a man could walk down stairs with a broken leg, but he did,” Kershaw stated. ‘He must have come down five or six stories to the basement, all the way from the operating floor, which was quite a way. It was unbelievable. I don’t remember him ever saying anything to me except that his leg bothered him. There were two of us-I don’t remember who the other fellow was-who took him into a room in the basement and laid him on the floor until we got somebody to take care of him and take him to the hospital. He really got racked up, but he lived through the whole thing.’

Kershaw then joined Nicholl and others in making sure that all of the hydrogen was out of the generators. Nicholl found that he could hobble about if he kept his weight on the heel of his broken foot. The projectiles going through the roof

provided both a boon and a potential bane; the hole constituted additional vents for the highly flammable hydrogen, but they also weakened the roof to the point of collapse, endangering those who remained behind to shut down the plant.

'The people in the control room did a very good job of shutting down the remainder of the equipment and putting it safe condition so no more people got injured,' Kershaw added.

According to Nicholl, the first report of the tragedy came from an off-duty officer who was in the same restaurant as Joe DeLeo and others. Nicholl believed the policeman overstated the seriousness because officers 'from about 20 suburbs showed up,' and some 30 ambulances lined Ridgeland's driveway, from the security gate to the plant entrance. The hospital was more than prepared, too, he remembered. About 10 or 20 doctors stood ready to treat two injury victims, Nicholl and Griesshammer.

The morning after the explosion - Monday - Edison again had to ask its large industrial users to reduce their power and consumption - this time by 25 percent. By noon, the company appealed to residential and commercial customers to voluntarily curtail their use of Christmas and store lighting. Edison met Monday's load, according to one news report, 'By the skin of (its) teeth.' By the time another 24 hours had passed, the all-out effort of repair crews, working around the clock, had resolved the crisis. Thursday evening, Edison lifted all restrictions on use, following restoration of two of the Ridgeland units. A third came back the following morning, about the time Nicholl got out of the hospital. A new Unit 4, paid for by Allis-Chalmers, did not function until November 1955, nearly one year after the accident. The investigation disclosed that the 83-inch long rotor had a flaw in the forging which caused it to fly apart at high speed. Why were there no personal injury suits?

'The atmosphere was different then,' Nicholl explained. 'This was another world. We were company men, the loyalty was just unbelievable. We just accepted it.'

Edison provided financial assistance to the Thorsen and Jorgensen families, and Mrs. Jorgensen obtained a job with the company.

Months later, under a bright blue October sky, some two dozen Ridgeland employes, with brushes, buckets and ladders in hand, visited the home of Mrs. Thorsen in Evergreen Park during their off-duty hours and gave it and the garage a fresh coat of paint. Along with Mrs. Thorsen, supervisors included her young son Georgie, and his grandfather, Sam. One of the painters was Bill Nicholl. The following spring, the group built a garage at Mrs. Jorgensen's Northwest side home, painted it, and put in a concrete driveway. 'I never met a group of guys like the Ridgeland startup group,' Nicholl declared. 'They were the cream of the crop on the Edison system.'

(from "A Spirit Capable" page 289-295 John Hogan 1986)



President E.J. Doyle and Chairman C.Y. Freeman watch Operator Clarence T. Jorgensen take readings for log book at Fisk Station. (Edison Round Table Jan, 1943)

76 John P. Postelancyk, Jr, a thirty-three year old Lineman 1st Class in the Western Division Electric Operations Department,

	with seven years of service and ten months of experience, was killed at work on August 12, 1955 when he touched a 34,500 volt wire with his left hand while standing on a steel tower in Batavia, Illinois.
77	Joseph P. Nowack, a fifty-four year old Cable Splicer in the Chicago Central Underground Department with twenty-nine years of service and six years of experience, was fatally shocked by contact with a 120 volt transformer terminal block located in a vault at the LaSalle Hotel in Chicago on September 18, 1955.
78	Edwin F. Pawlik, a thirty-three year old Crane Operator at Calumet Generating Station, Chcicago, with nine years of service and one and a half years of experience, was killed at work on December 20, 1955. He had jumped off a braking coal car to avoid a crash. Pawlik rolled down the hill and slid under a car; he was crushed by the low hoppers.
79	Robert C. Everhart, a thirty-two year old Lineman in the Electric Operations Department in the Northern Illinois Division with nine years of service and three and a half years of experience, was killed while working in Freeport, Illinois on August 21, 1956. While positioned on a capacitor pole, a chain holding a snatch block broke and the falling winch line cut his safety strap in two. He suffered fatal injuries as a result of the fall.
80	George B. Litwin, a thirty-three year old Mechanic 2 nd Grade in the Chicago Central Substation Construction Department with fifteen years of service and five years of experience, was fatally burned by an exploding switch compartment in a vault at the Prudential Building in Chicago on August 21, 1956.
81	Donald J. Fisher, a twenty-eight year old Lineman, Starting in the Western Division Electric Operations Department with four years of service and two years of experience, was standing on the ground and pulling in Company owned telephone wire in Elmhurst, Illinois on June 11, 1957. He was electrocuted by current flowing through the telephone wire when it flipped up into an energized 2400 volt primary wire.
82	Bruce J. St. Pierre, a twenty year old temporary Groundman in the Southern Division Electric Operations Department with one month of service and four months of experience, was kneeling on the ground to guide a pole into a hole in Reddick, Illinois when he was fatally shocked and burned on July 12, 1957. Groundman Eldon Hertz, who was kneeling beside St. Pierre, was also shocked and burned but was able to return to work.
83	Walter C. Hart, a fifty-two year old Lineman in the Electric Operations Department in the Northern Illinois Division with six and a half years of service and six years of experience, fell with a wood pole while working in Sycamore, Illinois on August 12, 1957. The pole broke two and a half feet above the ground line when a service wire was released. The fall caused a fractured pelvis and severed urethra. Hart passed away four days later.

84	Walter A. Witte, a twenty-two year old Lineman, Starting in the Western Division Electric Operations Department with five years of service and eleven months of experience, was fatally shocked on September 20, 1957 in Glen Ellyn, Illinois. He had stepped onto a fallen energized primary wire and burned on his left shoulder blade and right heel, shrubbery touching his shoulder may have provided a path to ground potential.
85	Vernon C. Anderson, a twenty-five year old Lineman in the Electric Operations Department in the Northern Illinois Division with seven years of service and one year of experience, was upgraded to a Crewleader on June 11, 1958 when he lost his life while working in Genoa, Illinois. He was shocked by contact with a wire that was supposed to be deenergized but was actually energized at 4160 volts. His right foot, through his climbing spur, contacted a secondary wire running down the pole to a meter and his left leg contacted service wires. The electrical contact left burns on his left leg and right foot.
86	George L. Heiden, a thirty-two year old Lineman in the Electric Operations Department in the Northern Illinois Division with six years of service and three years of experience, slid thirty-one feet down to the ground wearing his safety strap when his climbing spurs cut out of an icy pole in DeKalb, Illinois on February 10, 1959. The fall broke three bones in his right foot and injured his back. Blood clots that had developed in his legs travelled to his lungs and caused pneumonia. A large blood clot later travelled to his heart and caused his death on March 17, 1959, thirty-five days after the accident.
87	John R. Hughes, a twenty-nine year old Lineman in the Chicago South Overhead Department with eleven years of service and two years of experience, fell twenty-six and a half feet to a concrete alley at 74 th Street and Vincennes in Chicago on June 25, 1959. The fall was caused by his left shoulder contacting a secondary neutral wire while his right leg contacted a transformer case energized at 2400 volts.
88	Donald R. Watson, a twenty-nine year old Lineman in the Electric Operations Department in the Northern Division with six years of service and two years of experience, was attempting to reinstall a service cable onto an insulator on a pole in Zion, Illinois. His bare left arm contacted an uncovered bail dead-end that was energized while the right side of his chest contacted a grounded service drop messenger wire. The resulting 120 volt shock caused his death on August 19, 1959.
89	Daniel A. Boenke, a thirty-three year old Lineman in the Chicago North Overhead Department with twelve years of service and nine years of experience, was working from a pole at Irving Park and Sheridan Roads in Chicago on May 30, 1960 when he was fatally injured. He had not yet fastened his safety strap when his bare head contacted an energized 2160 volt primary wire while the right side of his waist contacted a 120 volt service tap wire. The shock caused him to lose his grip and fall twenty-seven feet to the paved alley.

90	Virgil E. Moss, a thirty-three year old Electrical Mechanic in the Freeport District of the Northern Illinois Division with eleven years of service and seven years of experience, suffered second and third degree burns over ninety percent of his body and succumbed to the injuries on October 18, 1960 while working in a substation in Lena, Illinois. He had climbed onto substation equipment energized at 34,500 volts, presumably to make an inspection.
91	Edward R. Drake, a thirty-five year old Electrical Maintenance Helper at the Powerton Generating Station in Southern Division with twelve years of service and three months of experience, was killed at work on October 31, 1961. He was severely burned on his head, arms and torso when he attempted to clean an energized 22,000 volt disconnect with a rag on the end of a screwdriver.
92	Clinton E. Baker, a thirty-two year old Lineman in the Elgin District of the Western Division with eight years of service and three and three-quarters years of experience, was electrocuted removing wire on a job located south of Route 72 on the west side of Sleepy Hollow Road on November 15, 1961. He was wearing leather gloves to operate the take-up reel controls at the rear of the ungrounded truck while standing on ground that was wet from the previous day's rain. A rubber hose four spans away had slipped during the wire removal. The wire being removed contacted a cutout energized at 2400 volts causing the wire and the truck to become energized. Baker received a lethal electrical shock through his left hand that left a deep dime-sized burn on his left thumb.
93	Junior H. Ditsch, a thirty-six year old Lineman in Rock River District with eleven years of service and six years of experience was electrocuted on May 23, 1962 in Dixon, Illinois. While cutting off an energized 2400 volt service, the cutter handle touched his left arm above his rubber glove. Ditsch's chest was against the grounded messenger wire and his left knee was touching an exposed through bolt.
94	Frederick H. Neumann, a thirty-two year old Lineman in the Maywood Area of the Western Division with thirteen years of service and two years of experience, suffered fatal injuries caused by a fall from a pole in Berwyn, Illinois on June 4, 1962. To avoid a tree while descending, he had grasped a clevis to swing around the pole. The clevis rotated, causing Neumann to fall approximately twenty feet head first onto the concrete pavement.
95	Franklin H. Berdine, a twenty-seven year old Conveyor Attendant at State Line Station in Indiana with six and a half years of service and one year of experience, suffered second and third degree burns over eighty-five percent of his body on August 31, 1962. An explosion in a coal bunker caused another explosion on the conveyor floor above where Berdine and others were working. He died from his injuries on September 7, 1962.

96	Francis X. Milnamow, a fifty-seven year old Area Operator in the Chicago Central Substation Operating Department with thirty-seven years of service and fourteen years of experience, was severely burned on September 23, 1962 in a vault at 2422 S. Archer. An operating error, closing the ground disconnects rather than the line disconnects, caused the G&W automatic switch oil compartment to rupture and throw burning oil on Milnamow. He passed away twelve days later on October 5, 1962.
97	Richard Tyler, a thirty-eight year old Circuitman in the Chicago Central Electrical Operating Department with twenty years of service and eleven months of experience was electrocuted on March 19, 1963. While wearing leather-palmed gloves, he grasped a downed 12,000 volt wire at 1445 W. 37 th Place. The fallen conductor was energized from backfeed.
98	Donald A Schroeder, a twenty-five year old Lineman in the Lake Villa Electrical Operating Department with six years of service and two years of experience, sustained a 7200 volt electrical contact on September 6, 1963. He and another Lineman were installing an alley arm, transformer and associated equipment on a pole east of Route 83 on the south side of Route 173 in Antioch, Illinois. While using a tie stick to tie in a 7200 volt conductor, he inadvertently energized an arrestor's ground wire. The ground tap wire extending down the pole was not yet connected to the system neutral or the ground rod. The energized ground tap wire was contacting his right leg while the system neutral was contacting his right arm. The current passing through his body caused third degree burns on his right arm and his right leg from the shin to the crotch. Schroeder revived and was transported to Victory Memorial Hospital in Waukegan. The following Monday, he was transferred to Pasavant Hospital in Chicago so that an artificial kidney could be used because his own kidneys were not functioning. He died from his injuries six days after the accident.
99	James D. Hayenga, a thirty-two year old Lineman in the Illinois Northern Electric Operations Department with nine and a half years of service and five years of experience, was electrocuted on September 13, 1963. He was repairing a damaged splice on a system neutral on a pole approximately three-quarters of a mile northeast of Harvard, Illinois. He and his crew had deenergized a downstream transformer to remove backfeed from the open neutral wire. While his coworkers were retrieving material from the truck, it is assumed Hayenga's climbers cut out of the pole and he grabbed the energized 2400 volt primary wire above his head. He was wearing leather protectors without rubber gloves. His coworkers heard an arcing noise and turned to see Hayenga clutching the phase wire with his right hand, his left arm at his side and his feet hanging straight down. His left thigh had contacted the grounded through-bolt that supported a neutral clamp, completing a circuit and allowing current to pass through him. In addition to third degree burns on his right palm and left thigh, his left leg, near the groin, was severely lacerated by the through-bolt which had temporarily supported his weight.

100	Duane R. Blaine, a thirty-four year old Lineman in the Chicago North Electric Operations Department with sixteen years of service and eight years of experience, was fatally burned while working atop a pole at Ashland and Addison in Chicago on September 29, 1964. He was inserting a switching rod into an oil-filled pothead when the pothead exploded and covered Blaine in burning oil.
101	Caesar F. Schmelter, a sixty-three year old Equipment Inspector in the General Office Purchasing Department with thirty-eight years of service and twenty-seven years of experience, was found dead by a State Trooper on Route 66 near Plainfield on October 23, 1964 at 10:44PM. The trooper found the company car after it apparently had run off the road, Schmelter had suffered a fractured skull.
102	Joseph M. McCasey, a thirty-four year old Radiation Protection Man at Dresden Generating Station with eleven years of service and five years of experience, died two days after sustaining injuries from a nine and a half foot fall. On January 30, 1965, he was knocked off a scaffold by a feed water heater diaphragm which had fallen. His head struck a relief valve during his descent.
103	Edward V. Gedman, a forty year old Lineman in Northbrook with thirteen years of service and nine years of experience, died when was working in an aerial lift and wearing leather gloves to splice a primary wire, which was supposed to be deenergized. The conductor was actually energized at 2400 volts because a fuse remained in place after the cutout door had been opened.
104	James J. Feller, a thirty-four year old Cable Splicer in the Chicago North Underground Department with thirteen years of service and three and a half months of experience, suffered an fatal electric shock on February 2, 1966 while splicing a cable bond wire to the neutral on a 2400 volt primary system. He was working from a platform at a cable pole at 593 W. Hawthorne Place in Chicago. He was electrocuted by the primary circuit's return current when he opened the neutral wire.
105	John, a forty-one year old Lineman in Chicago South Overhead Department with thirteen years of service and five and one-half years of experience, was working in aerial lift at 7530 S. Greenwood, Chicago on September 8, 1966. An energized 120 volt transformer lead wire was pushed against a transformer case by the lift. The short circuit arc burned a hole through the transformer case. Insulating oil spurted out through the hole and caught fire, severely burning Parise. With his clothing in flames, he either jumped or fell from the lift twenty-seven feet to the ground. Parise passed away five days later.
106	Lloyd E. White, forty-four year old A Mechanic at Kincaid Generating Station, with fifteen years of service and five years of experience, was working from a temporary platform above the coal surge bin at Kincaid Station on July 20, 1967. An angle iron that supported the temporary platform broke at a weld point. White's fatal injuries were caused by an approximately twenty foot fall into the coal surge bin.

107	Elliott Roseman, a twenty-seven year old Lineman, Starting in the North Shore Area with three years of service and one and a half years of experience, was working from a pole northwest of Libertyville on March 27, 1968. He was using his hands to tighten a live-line clamp to a deenergized tap wire. Roseman was electrocuted when the tap became energized at 12,000 volts. The tap was inadvertently energized when a Lineman, working two spans away from him, accidentally allowed that end of conductor to be blown into another energized conductor.
108	George F. Gansz, a forty-nine year old Circuitman in Chicago North Overhead with thirty-one years of service and four years of experience, was fatally shocked while working in vault at 421-27 W. Melrose Street in Chicago on September 3, 1968. Primary lead wires from a transformer trailer were being connected to energized 3,760 volt jumper loops on a pothead switching table located in the vault. As Gansz reached for the transformer lead wire across the energized jumper loops, his left arm, above his rubber glove, contacted an exposed split bolt installed on the jumper loop. The current flowed from his left arm, through his body, to his left thigh, which was in contact with the grounded pothead switching table.
109	John H. Glynn, Jr., a forty year old Tree Trimmer in Southern District Overhead Department with fifteen years of service and four and a half years of experience, was working in Joliet on September 16, 1968 when he died as a result of a lethal fall. He had extended the boom of an aerial lift to the side of the truck. The outriggers were not set and the truck tipped over. Glynn remained in the lift but suffered severe internal injuries when the aerial lift hit the ground.
110	Senei Catteau, a thirty-two year old Coal Plant Operator BB at Kincaid Generating Station, with twenty months of service and eleven months of experience, was using a bull dozer to remove burning coal from a compacted coal pile. The pile was approximately thirty-five feet tall with a five foot overhang. The pile collapsed. A large amount of coal fell, crushing the dozer cab and killing Catteau.
111	Walter C. Kusiolek, a sixty-three year old Underground Cable Inspector at Chicago South with forty-two years of service and seven years of experience, was a passenger in a van in the intersection of Dante and South Chicago Avenue on June 1, 1970. An automobile went through the red light and struck the right side of the van. Kusiolek was either thrown through the windshield or the open passenger-side door. He died from his injuries at approximately 12:25 am the next morning.
112	Neil L. Klopsch, a nineteen year old Steam Auxiliary Operator with six months of service and experience, entered a precipitator on August 20, 1970 at State Line Station, Indiana, in order to clean it. He laid an extension cord on the floor, stood up and contacted still energized high tension beams. He received a lethal electric shock.

113	John A. McDermott, a twenty-two year old Starting Lineman in Glenbard with one year of service and eight months of experience, was killed on a pole at 1405 Fullerton in Addison, Illinois on March 1, 1971. As he was passing his safety strap around the pole, his left hand contacted a grounded transformer case while his right leg contacted a grounded through-bolt supporting the transformer and his face contacted the load buster hook on a cutout that was energized at 7200 volts to ground.
114	Anthony Santangelo, a twenty-six year old Cable Splicer in the Glenbard Underground Department with nearly three years of service and four months of experience, climbed a cable pole on June 21, 1971 at Erie and Ridgeland in Oak Park, Illinois to apply bonding tape to terminations on a de-energized cable. Instead of moving to the cable side of the pole, he continued his climb on the opposite side which held overhead equipment. The right side of his body contacted the energized blade of an open disconnect switch. His right hand contacted the grounded cable providing a lethal path for 7200 volts.
115	Emil Misichko, a fifty-six year old Electrical Maintenance Man with twenty-one years of service and two and a third years of experience was examining wires in a conduit while standing on a coal conveyor belt at Joliet Station on April 8, 1972. The conveyor started automatically, knocking Misichko off of his feet and onto the moving belt, which carried him under the discharge chutes. He received fatal injuries from the crushing force of the coal from the feeder chutes.
116	Floyd S. Willis, a thirty-nine year old Stockman I with three years of service and two and a half years of experience was killed at the General Warehouse in Stickney, Illinois on March 12, 1973 as a result of electrical and thermal burns he received. A material handling crane's load line had become energized by contact with an energized 34,000 volt overhead wire. Willis was burned when he grabbed a wire rope sling that was attached to the energized load line.
117	George F. Dvorak, a sixty year old Engineering Associate in the Chicago Central Operating Analysis Department with forty years of service and eight years of experience was killed, along with Howard C. Shepar in a ninth floor electrical vault in the Northern Trust Building at 125 S. Wacker Drive, Chicago, on November 6, 1973. A series of explosions occurred during the process of energizing Network Center 7077. A protector at the transformer short circuited, causing an electrical flash. Another transformer tank ruptured and the internal askeral insulating oil sprayed into the vault and onto the workers.
118	Howard C. Shepar, a forty-eight year old Engineering Assistant in the Chicago Central Operating Analysis Department with twenty-two years of service and two and a half years of experience was killed in a ninth floor electrical vault in the Northern Trust Building at 125 S. Wacker Drive on November 6, 1973 along with George F. Dvorak. A series of explosions occurred during the process of energizing Network Center 7077. A protector at a transformer short circuited, causing an electrical flash. Another transformer tank ruptured and the internal askeral insulating oil sprayed into vault and onto the workers.

¹¹⁹	Matthew J. Wynne, Jr, Substation Construction Mechanic 'B' with three years of service and eleven months of experience, suffered a fatal accident on January 26, 1974 while cleaning insulators and buss on 4,000 volt equipment in Switchhouse #2 at Fisk Generating Station. A committee was unable to determine the cause of death.
¹²⁰	Wayne R. Fuchs, a twenty-nine year old Lineman in the Northwest Area with six and a half years of service and four years of experience, received a fatal electrical shock on April 26, 1974 when he attempted to place a fuse holder into an energized 7200 volt cutout with his left hand while holding the neutral wire with his right hand. He was working north of Jamison and west of Shepard in Hoffman Estates.
¹²¹	James O'Voyles, a forty-nine year old Substation Construction Crew Leader in Chicago North with twenty-seven years of service and five years of experience was fatally injured on July 12, 1974 by contact with an energized bushing detail at the top of a pothead while working at S&C Electric Company, 6601 N Ridge. The other crew members did not see the contact, making it impossible for the Investigating Committee to determine how the accident occurred.
¹²²	Robert F. O'Keefe, a twenty-five year old Lineman in the Des Plaines Valley Authority Overhead Department with ten months of Company service and three and a half years of experience, was working on a corner pole located in the alley south of Garfield and west of Austin Boulevard in Oak Park, Illinois on July 29, 1974. He suffered a deadly electrical shock when his right forearm contacted an energized dead-end device on 'B' phase of Feeder #101 energized at 4,000 volts.
¹²³	Robert W. Respress, a thirty year old Substation Construction Electrical Mechanic 'B' in Chicago Central with three months of service and one month of experience was killed while working in a vault at 1339 N. Dearborn on August 12, 1975. Several parts of his body were touching grounded switchgear equipment as his left foot contacted an energized back-fed potential transformer fuse clip.
¹²⁴	Johnny R. Casey, a twenty-four year old Lineman in the Harvey Area Overhead Department with four years of service and two years of experience was painting a steel tower located south of Caton Farm Road and east of Grandview in Cresthill, Illinois on September 22, 1975 when he lost his life. The paint bucket either slipped or was tipped over. A stream of the spilled paint provided a path from the 138,000 volt conductor to the steel tower resulting in an electrical arc. Casey fell from the tower arm but he was still suspended in his body belt. His body then bridged the distance between the 138,000 volt conductor and the tower as the reclosers operated two more times.

¹²⁵	Thomas P. McGreal, a twenty-eight year old Lineman in the Des Plaines Valley Area Overhead Department with six years of service and three years of experience was repairing tornado damaged equipment at Transmission Substation #78 in Franklin Park, Illinois on March 14, 1976 when he died from an electrical contact. During the process of slacking off a down-guy wire so that the apitong wood rod could be replaced, the guy wire dropped onto an energized 12,000 volt jumper. The guy wire became energized, allowing electrical current to pass through McGreal and into the earth.
¹²⁶	Walter F. Langosch, a fifty-six year old Foreman in the Chicago North Substation Construction Department with thirty-eight years of service and five years of experience, was physically identifying a cable in Rosehill Substation on September 2, 1976. He mistakenly entered an energized compartment and suffered an electrical contact and arc burns which caused his death.
¹²⁷	David W. McMasters, a twenty-six year old Lineman in the North Shore Area Overhead Department with four years of service and two years of experience was painting a steel tower located on the Elgin, Joliet and Eastern Railroad right-of-way south of Dempster Street and west of Dodge Avenue in Evanston, Illinois on September 24, 1976 when he lost his life. Paint spilled onto the 138,000 volt conductor and caused an electrical arc very close to him. The arc blast burned his body belt and McMasters fell to the ground.
¹²⁸	Daniel E. Townsend, a twenty-seven year old Lineman in the Crestwood Area Overhead Department with nine years of service and four years of experience, was working on corner pole at 118 th Street and Hamlin in Alsip, Illinois on May, 5, 1977 when he suffered severe injuries. While cutting a jumper tap with a pair of cable cutters, his right elbow contacted a 4,000 volt energized primary phase wire. The current travelled from his elbow to his waist, which was contacting an uncovered neutral. He passed away on six days later on May 11, 1977.
¹²⁹	Ray Artman, a sixty-two year old Power Meterman in the Rock River Region with forty years of service and twelve years of experience, was killed in a vehicle accident at McKinley and Route 14 in Harvard, Illinois on September 6, 1977. He had pulled the company car into the intersection and was struck by an oncoming car.
¹³⁰	Billy Jan Phillips, a forty-one year old Electrical Maintenance 'A' Man at Kincaid Generating Station with ten years of service and seven years of experience, was burned over eighty-five percent of his body on September 17, 1977. The job was to identify a fan by using a ground and test device through a grounded 4,000 volt feeder. The grounding "stabs" were inadvertently left on the energized buss side in the 4kV cubicle. An arc flash occurred when the ground leads were applied to the energized grounding equipment. Phillips expired four days later.


¹³¹	John D. Dietmeyer, a thirty-one year old Lineman in the North West Area Overhead Department with nineteen years of service and seven years of experience, was working from a pole east of Roselle Road and south of the Northwest Tollway in Schaumburg, Illinois when he fell on April 26, 1978. The crew had transferred the conductors on the top arm on the distribution pole. Dietmeyer had unbelted and climbed lower and stood on an underground riser bracket. While the other lineman was preparing to install a down-guy wire, Dietmeyer leaned back and fell thirty-five feet down to the ground.
¹³²	Timothy F. Danforth, Jr., a fifty-one year old Lineman Special in the Overhead Department in the West Area with twenty-five years of service and eight years of experience, was electrocuted on July 28, 1978 while working in a transformer located south of 63 rd Street and east of Main Street in Downers Grove. He was attempting, without wearing rubber gloves, to install a fault indicator on a U.R.D. cable positioned in a conventional padmount transformer. His right hand contacted an exposed disconnect blade that was energized at 7200 volts to ground.
¹³³	Dayle F. McNab, a thirty-two year old 'B' Mechanic at the Will County Generating Station in the West Area with two years of service and experience, was critically burned on February 1, 1979. He was using a "strong-back" tool, similar to a wheel puller, to remove a diaphragm from the 4FU header which had been removed from service four days earlier. The diaphragm popped loose and the trapped steam and hot water burned McNab on over sixty-five percent of his body. He expired twenty-five days later on February 26, 1979.
¹³⁴	Dennis J. Bye, a twenty-eight year old Lineman in the De Kalb District Overhead Department with seven years of service and four years of experience, died on April 26, 1979 while he was working from a tower one mile east of US Route 51 and approximately six miles south of Rockford. He was lowering a quarter-inch rope to pull up a tower rescue line for work on a de-energized 345,000 volt line. While standing on the grounded metal tower to lower the rope, the right side of his face made contact with an energized 2400 volt static wire.
¹³⁵	Robert L. Hardy, a thirty-six year old Lineman in the Belvidere Overhead Department with eleven years of service and eight years of experience, was working on April 22, 1981 with a crane to remove eighty-five long wooden poles as part of a job to dismantle an old 138,000 volt line at the northeast corner of Daysville and Flagg Roads, approximately seven miles south of Oregon, Illinois. The pole was top heavy due to the crane line's low position on the pole. Control of the pole was lost and the butt end went up into the air. A sling rope, attached to the pole butt, tangled around Hardy's leg and catapulted him at least sixty feet high. The fall and impact caused multiple fractures and internal injuries, leading to his death.

136	Richard L. McCrory Jr., a thirty-four year old Cable Splicer in the Chicago South Underground Department with eleven years of service and one year of experience, was preparing to pump out a below grade vault at the northeast corner of 72 nd Street and South Shore Drive June 15, 1981 after heavy rains. One piece of the two-piece manhole became wedged in the opening. The cover was lowered into the vault and the vault was then pumped out. After pumping, McCrory descended into the vault to tie a line to the cover in order to reset it. When he stood up from a crouched position, he was electrocuted when his back contacted a cutout with exposed parts energized at 2160 volts.
137	Brian J. Oldfield, a twenty-four year old Lineman in the North Shore Area Overhead Department with five years of service and two years of experience, was working to replace a three-phase 4,000 volt 25 kilovolt-ampere transformer bank at the Lincolnwood Municipal Building with a three-phase 37 ½ kilovolt-ampere transformer bank on June 17, 1981. A temporary transformer trailer had been connected to maintain service. Another Lineman was working in an aerial lift adding an insulating bell at the front of the pole. He asked Oldfield to install a pin sling. Oldfield, standing on a grounded transformer rack, reached up and contacted an energized temporary cutout with his right arm, providing a path for the lethal current.
138	Harold G. Alberts, Jr, a twenty-four year old Lineman in the Rock River Division's DeKalb District Overhead Department with ten years of service and ten years of experience, was climbing down a 100 foot pole on Sink Hollow Road, three-tenths of a mile north of Route 2 in Dixon Township on December 17, 1981 and fell. He died as result of injuries from the fall. No apparent cause of the fall was determined.
139	LeRoy Davis, a forty-one year old Crew Leader in the Crestwood Overhead Department with sixteen years of service and five years of experience, was electrocuted at Orland Park Mall on August 2, 1982. The job was to replace two 600 ampere disconnects that were "welded closed". The switching order indicated to open the live line clamps above the disconnects and then open disconnects in a padmounted switchgear. For an unknown reason the crew went to the switchgear first. While his crew was readying equipment to "fuzz" the disconnect, Davis contacted an energized disconnect in the padmount.
140	John Jamnik, a twenty-four year old Equipment Attendant at Joliet Generating Station #29 with six years of service and five years of experience, was shutting down a coal dust collector system on December 30, 1983. Coal dust became dislodged from the screw conveyor and fell ten levels to the floor, where it was ignited by a portable radiant heater. The resulting flash fire fatally burned Jamnik.

¹⁴¹	Thomas R. Knippenberg, a forty-two year old Cable Splicer in the Glenbard Underground Department with twenty-two years of service and fourteen years of experience, was killed at work on October 3, 1984. He was breaking into underground cable ducts with a pneumatic hammer in preparation to splice a feeder cable at 22nd Street and Camden Court in Oakbrook, Illinois. The hammer bit penetrated energized 12,000 volt cables resulting in fatal injuries.
¹⁴²	Floyd S. Willis, a forty year old Lineman in the North Shore Area Overhead Department with sixteen years of service and thirteen years of experience, was preparing to switch underground cables on Lockwood Avenue in Skokie on August 6, 1985. He was installing a feed-through bushing in a pad-mounted single-phase 12,000 volt compartmental transformer when his bare hand contacted the uncovered energized primary bushing.
¹⁴³	James E. Bryant, a forty-two year old Lineman in the Maywood Overhead Department with seventeen years of service and fifteen years of experience, was working on a lightning damaged three-phase transformer bank at Ernst and Franklin in Franklin Park on August 21, 1987. He died, while attempting to de-energize the 7200 volt equipment, when he contacted an ungrounded primary neutral wire.
¹⁴⁴	David Mavis, a forty-six year old Crew Leader in the Joliet Overhead Department with twenty-one years of service and four years of experience, was working on a 4 to 12 conversion job at Distribution Center J18 located at Eastern and 5th Streets in Joliet on February 27, 1989. Mavis contacted the energized high voltage side of the station's light and power transformer. The transformer, which was supposed to be deenergized, was back fed through a circuit connected to the heater for the metering and control cabinet.
¹⁴⁵	Michael J. Alberts, a thirty-two year old worker in the Rockford Substation Construction Department suffered fatal injuries when he was electrocuted June 30, 1990 as he positioned his body between the low side transformer bushing and the cable termination. A disconnect isolating one of the system neutrals was not opened which maintained a potential ground.
¹⁴⁶	Jerry L. Williams, a twenty-eight year old Lineman Joliet Overhead was fatally injured while connecting a sixteen foot long jumper across a 12,000 volt disconnect on April 25, 1991. One end of the jumper inadvertently contacted an energized 12,000 volt B phase tap while other end of the jumper contacted his body and the common neutral.
¹⁴⁷	Joseph Crivilare, a thirty year old Lineman in the Chicago North Overhead Department was working from an aerial lift to install 600 ampere knife blade disconnects on a new pole north of Touhy and west of California on April 21, 1994. His right hand contacted the energized C phase tap and his left shoulder contacted energized B phase. The switch blades were closed, while the north going taps on the opposite side of the switches were inadvertently left connected to the energized line which made the tap wires he was working on energized at 4,000 volts. The contacts on two phases electrocuted Crivilare.

148	Donald A. Noah, a forty-one year old Senior Mechanic at Crawford Station was fatally injured at work on January 30, 1995.
149	<p>Stephen T. Massoth, a twenty-eight year old Overhead Electrician in Northern Region with seven years of service and five years of experience, received a fatal injury on July 28, 1995. He and another worker were replacing a storm-damaged open-type 'C' phase cutout at Feeder 47165 in the rear of 622 Dundee Road in Glencoe, Illinois. The initial plan to de-energize the equipment by opening disconnects changed because the large power outage would require police and fire department notifications. An insulated platform was not utilized because someone would have to return to the headquarters. After receiving the Dispatcher's permission, Massoth climbed the pole and opened the 'B' phase cutout. Wearing rubber gloves and sleeves, he then moved into position and removed the upper and lower taps and removed the damaged 'C' phase cutout. After installing a new cutout and connecting the lower tap wire, he positioned himself to connect the still energized upper tap wire. His coworker heard a muffled flash and saw Massoth jerk backwards and slide down the pole with his feet stopping at the neutral. His upper body fell backwards and his head hung straight down. When his coworker asked him if he was all right, Massoth replied "No, I'm not." Other workers overheard the crew members' radio calls for assistance. Two workers were needed to untangle Massoth from the secondary and telephone wires and lower him to the ground where paramedics waited. The 7200 volt contact was fatal, electrical burn marks were found on his right wrist, between the rubber glove and rubber sleeve, and on the bottoms of both of his feet.</p> <p><i>Death Notice: Stephen Thomas Massoth, 28, of Round Lake Park, a lineman for Commonwealth Edison Co., died Friday at Highland Park Hospital following a work-related accident. Mr. Massoth had been an Edison lineman for eight years. He is survived by his wife, Ann; two sons, Stephen Jr. and Andrew; a daughter Ashleigh; and a sister. Visitation will be from 4 to 9 p.m. Monday and from 2 to 9 p.m. Tuesday at Justen's Round lake Funeral Home, 222 Rosedale Ct., Round Lake. Mass will be said at 9:30 a.m. at St. Joseph Catholic Church, 114 N. Lincoln Ave., Round Lake. Chicago Tribune 7/30/1995</i></p>
150	John Wessel, a fifty-three year old Coal Station Laborer at Kincaid Station was fatally injured at work on February 27, 1996.
151	David Garcia, thirty-eight year old Lineman in the Crestwood Overhead Department with fourteen years of service and seven years of experience, was fatally injured at work on December 6, 1997. He was working from a pole behind 4800 Kimberly Court in Oak Forest when he touched an inadvertently energized 7200 volt cable termination while his body was in contact with a grounded pothead termination bracket. A missed switching step at a padmount transformer had left the cable energized.
152	Michael Ready, a forty-five year old Joliet Station Mechanic in the Maintenance Department, was fatally injured at work on December 22, 1999.

¹⁵³	Timothy Miller, a forty year old Overhead Electrician in Crystal Lake Overhead with twenty-two years of service and fourteen years of experience was killed at work June 6, 2000. He was on the ground coiling a copper wire by hand. The wire was cut down for removal but, hidden by foliage, was contacting a primary conductor energized at 12,000 volts.
¹⁵⁴	Gregory Eisnaugle, a forty year old Electric Maintenance Mechanic at Will County Station was fatally injured at work on November 14, 2001.
¹⁵⁵	John Fordham, a fifty-two year old Coal Plant Operator at Joliet Station was fatally injured at work on September 24, 2002.
¹⁵⁶	<p>Jorge Mijares, a forty-two year old Crew Leader in the Maywood Overhead Department, with eighteen and one-half years of service, was killed at work as he was replacing arms on a pole on the 4000 block of Scott in Schiller Park about 10 a.m. Friday December 27, 2002. The aerial lift he was in came into contact with a bolt connected to a conductor energized at 34,000 volts. The bolt broke through the bottom of the lift while he was in contact with a grounded static wire. The arc caused deadly injuries. Mijares' coworker in the lift, James Bowdry, was treated for burns at Gottlieb Memorial Hospital in Melrose Park.</p> <p>"It's very, very rare for us to have an accident of this magnitude. . . . Our hearts and prayers go out to the family of Mr. Mijares," Commonwealth Edison spokesman Tim Lindberg said.</p> <p>Jorge Mijares is survived by his wife, Frances Ann, and their four children, James, Kathryn, Daniel, and Kristina, all under the age of fourteen years.</p>
¹⁵⁷	Charles L. Reid, a fifty-three year old Coal Station Laborer at Joliet Station was fatally injured at work on March 31, 2006.
¹⁵⁸	Daniel J. Yost, a twenty-four year old Overhead Electrician, Starting in Glenbard with ten months of service and experience was belted onto a new rear lot line pole in the 100 block of south Lodge in Lombard, Illinois when he suffered fatal injuries at about 2:30 p.m. on August 21, 2007. Yost was transferring a secondary service conductor to the new pole when an uncovered conductor energized at 120 volts contacted his arm above the rubber glove cuff and electrocuted him. His fellow workers retrieved him from the pole and an ambulance transported him to Good Samaritan Hospital, where he was pronounced dead.

	<p><i>Death Notice: Daniel was a United States Army Veteran. Daniel worked as a Lineman for Com-Ed Exelon Company. Survivors include his parents, David and Kim Yost; grandparents, Curt and Lois Kenyon and Richard and Eileen Yost; his brothers, Joshua, Samuel and Seth Yost; Scott and Mary Kay Kenyon, Cathy and Ron Bouthillette, Christy Thompson, Brian and Lori Yost; his cousins, Erich, Michelle, Rachel, Dana, Hannah, Jodi and Connor. He was preceded in death by his grandmother, Dorothy "Dottie" Kenyon; and a great-aunt, Joyce. Daniel was a fun loving son, brother, grandson, uncle, nephew and cousin. Daniel was an avid Cubs fan and a proud member of I.B.E.W. Local #15. Memorial contributions may be made to Promise Land at Willow Creek of McHenry County, 220 Exchange Dr., Crystal Lake, IL 60014. Arrangements are by Querhammer and Flagg Funeral Home, 500 W. Terra Cotta Ave., Crystal Lake, IL 60014.(Chicago Tribune)</i></p>
159	<p>Alejandro I. Collazo, a thirty-eight year old Cable Splicer in the Chicago North Underground Department with fourteen years of service and seven years of experience was severely burned on June 6, 2008 at about 2:20 a.m. when an energized 12,000 volt metallic lead-sheathed cable splice exploded. Collazo was in the small, shallow triangular manhole in the 5100 block of West Roosevelt Road (near Laramie) in the Austin neighborhood repairing and replacing cable and equipment from an earlier outage. The crew was removing another cable that failed two days earlier. An "electrical flash" or discharge of electricity occurred, causing an explosion, fire or something "in between," ComEd spokesman Jeff Burdick said the day of the accident. Collazo was initially taken to Mount Sinai Hospital in critical condition but was later transferred to the burn center at Loyola University Medical Center in Maywood, where he remained for 187 days. Collazo, of Des Plaines, was pronounced dead, with the cause listed as thermal burns, at Loyola University Medical Center at 12:23 p.m. Tuesday, December 9, 2008 according to the Cook County Medical Examiner's office.</p>  <p><i>Death Notice: Alejandro I. "Alex" Collazo Sr. of Des Plaines A funeral Mass for Alejandro I. "Alex" Collazo Sr., 38, will be celebrated at 11 a.m. Monday, Dec. 15, at St. Michael Catholic Church, 1633 N. Cleveland, Chicago, where he will lie in state from 10 a.m. until the time of the Mass. Entombment will be in All Saints Cemetery, Des Plaines. Visitation will be from 3 to 8 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14, at Oehler Funeral Home, 2099 Miner St. Des Plaines. Born September 16, 1970, in Chicago, he died at Loyola Medical Center in Maywood. Alex was an avid Cubs fan. He worked for ComEd for 14 years as an underground splicer out of Chicago North. He was a great husband, great father and helped coach his kids' baseball teams. He also collected old cars. He was the husband for ten years of Patricia (nee Slattery); father of Dennis Booth, Isabella Collazo, Alex Collazo Jr. and Nico Collazo; brother of Vincent (Sandy) Collazo and Melanie Collazo; and uncle of many nieces and nephews. In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts may be made to Loyola Medical Center, Links of Hope, 2160 S. First St., Maywood, IL 60153. (Herald 12/12/2008)</i></p>

William J. Boseo, a fifty-two year old Material Handler in the Joliet Supply Department with thirty-one years of service and twenty-four years of experience was fatally injured on April 14, 2010 at Bedford Park TSS when he was crushed between a parked truck and a falling porcelain switch. He was working alone when he was preparing to load the abandoned 138,000 volt switch onto a knuckle truck. Other workers found him pinned underneath the switch at the rear end of the truck. The crushing weight prevented Boseo from breathing, leading to his asphyxiation and causing his death.



Death notice: William J. Boseo "Bill" Age 51 years, late of Joliet passed away suddenly on Wednesday, April 14, 2010 as a result of a work related incident. Bill was born in Joliet, on December 3, 1958. He was a graduate of Joliet Central High School, Class of 1977. He was currently employed by Commonwealth Edison. Bill was an extraordinary human being who touched the hearts of everyone he met. His selfless acts of kindness are his legacy. He enjoyed family gatherings, music, fishing, hunting, travel and baseball; especially the White Sox! Preceded in death by his father, Fred L. "Woody" Boseo Jr.; his maternal grandparents, Carl and Angela Fietterer; his paternal grandparents, Fred Sr. and Helen Boseo. Bill was a devoted and loving father to Anthony "Tony" Boseo. Also survived by his mother, Lorraine (nee Fietterer) Boseo; his brothers and sisters, Bonnie (Richard) Simpson, Robert (Erin) Boseo, Barb (Dave) Vidano and Brian (Diana) Boseo; his dearest partner, Karen Rocush and her son, Peter. Also survived by uncles, aunts, adoring nieces and nephews, cousins and many dear friends. Funeral Services will be held from the Blackburn-Giegerich-Sonntag Funeral Home on Monday, April 19, 2010 at 9:15 am to the St. Patrick's Catholic Church for a mass at 10:00 am. Visitation at the funeral home on Sunday, April 18th from 2:00 to 8:00 pm. Cremation rites will be accorded with private inurnment at Resurrection Catholic Cemetery, Romeoville. In lieu of flowers, contributions would be appreciated and may be made to the William J. Boseo Memorial Fund % of Anthony Boseo at the Harris Bank. Arrangements entrusted to: Tapella Funeral Services @ Blackburn-Giegerich-Sonntag. (Herald News Obituary)

Kelly R. Skiles, a fifty-three year old Overhead Electrician in Northern Region with twenty-nine years of service and twenty-four years of experience was struck by falling equipment at Crystal Lake Avenue and East Street in Crystal Lake, Illinois on March 29, 2011 around 1:40 p.m. Two Overhead crews were working on a facility relocation job to relocate a pole on which one 34,000 volt and 12,000 circuits were located. The crew completed the installation of the new pole and had transferred the 34,000 volt circuit. The top six feet of the old pole, with the 34,000 volt cross arm still attached, had been removed and was secured to the jib and the cross arm was lying on top of the bucket. While in the process of lowering the material that had been removed, a section of a cross arm with an attached porcelain insulator fell from the bucket and struck Kelly Skiles on his helmeted head, who was on the ground near the truck. His injuries were fatal.



Death notice: Lyons, Wisconsin - Kelly R. Skiles, 53, passed away Tuesday, March 29, 2011, following an accident at work. He was born August 15, 1957, in Minnesota, to the late Elvera Houle. Kelly had been a lifetime resident of Lyons and a graduate of Burlington High School. On June 19, 1976, at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Lyons, Kelly was united in marriage to Linda Strohm. Kelly worked as an Overhead Electrician for Com Ed. He was a member of the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Tribe, Local 15 International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, and the Fox River Men's Burlington Pool League. Kelly enjoyed all of his toys and loved fast cars, especially his Corvette and Trans Am. He loved spending time with his children, grandchildren, nieces, and nephews, and enjoyed shooting billiards. Survivors include his loving wife, Linda Skiles; their sons, Kelly Gene (Trisha) Skiles, Timothy Ray Skiles, and Michael Kenneth Skiles; grandchildren, Keegan, Karsen, and Katelyn Skiles, all of Lyons; father-in-law, Donald (Marge Blaske) Strohm; mother-in-law, Anna Strohm; sisters, Billie Jo, Jackie, Randy (Ron), and Sharon (Zarko); and brothers, Kevin, Craig (Cheri), and Jerry. Kelly is further survived by brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law, Jeffrey, Sandra (Mark), John (Natalya), and Kimberly (Scott); Goddaughter, Stephanie Leverich- Syvertsen; Godson, Brody Vos; nieces, nephews, cousins, other relatives, and many friends. He was preceded in death by his mother, Elvera (George) Bauer; nephew, Mickey Skiles; and by uncles, Mickey Houle and Speedie Houle. Funeral services will be held on Saturday, April 2, 2011, at 11 a.m. at Schuette-Daniels Funeral Home with Deacon Dan Hull officiating. Private inurnment will take place at St. Joseph's Catholic Cemetery at a later date. Relatives and friends may visit with the family at Schuette-Daniels Funeral Home on Friday, April 1, 2011, from 4 until 8 p.m. and at the funeral home again on Saturday from 10 a.m. until the time of service. Schuette-Daniels Funeral Home & Crematory 625 Browns Lake Drive Burlington 262-763-3434 (Racine Journal Times 3/31/2011)

