

Benjamin G. Cowl

(- 5 Jun 1910)

Cowl. Suddenly June 5, 1910, Benjamin G. Cowl. Funeral from Zurhorst's 3d and East Capitol streets on Tuesday, June 7 at 11 a.m.

The Evening Star, June 6, 1910, p. 18

Burial of Mr. Cowl

Funeral of Patent Attorney to Be Held Tomorrow

Died From Inhaling Gas

Wife, Who Lighted Match in the Room Is Severely Injured by Explosion

Arrangements have been made for the funeral of Benjamin G. Cowl, patent attorney, to take place tomorrow. Mr. Cowl died at the Casualty Hospital yesterday morning as a result of inhaling illuminating gas while asleep at his home, 25 7th street southeast. His wife, who was burned by an explosion of gas following the finding of her husband unconscious is under the care of Dr. E.S. Lothrop at the home of Edward J Scroggins, 22 7th street southeast.

Mr. Cowl was at home with his wife and three children Saturday night and retired about 9 o'clock. So far as Mrs. Cowl knows her husband was not up during the night nor was there anything about the house to indicate to her that anything was wrong until about 3:30 o'clock in the morning.

About that time Mrs. Cowl was awakened by the odor of gas, and found that it was coming from the rear room on the second floor, where her husband was sleeping, and she hurried there to make an investigation. The first thing she did was to stop the flow of gas and open a window. She found the windows were already wide open, however, and then she struck a match. As soon as the match blazed there was an explosion, Mrs. Cowl being so severely burned that she could hardly be of assistance to her dying husband. She called for aid and succeeded in arousing her stepdaughter before she collapsed.

Aid Is Summoned

Miss Cowl summoned assistance. Members of No. 8 engine company, police reserves from the fifth precinct and neighbors responded. The police took Mr. Cowl to the Casualty Hospital in the patrol wagon, but Mrs. Cowl would not go there for treatment. She insisted that she be taken to the house of her neighbor, where she was attended by Dr. Lothrop. The physician found she had suffered severe burns on her face and hands, although her gown had not ignited. While her condition is still serious, it seems quite certain that she will recover.

Coroner Nevitt and the police made an examination of the premises yesterday and reached the conclusion that the gas had been accidentally turned on by Mr. Cowl just before he retired. The fixture has two stops, one for a heater connection, which is loose and so close to the one which regulates the flow to the jet for lighting purposes that it was an easy matter to accidentally open it while cutting off the flow from the fixture.

Closed Shutters Kept Gas In

The two windows in the room were open, but the shutters were closed, which prevented the gas from escaping from the room. Considerable excitement was caused in the vicinity of the Cowl home by the sad affair, many neighbors responding with offers of assistance. The condition of Mr. Cowl was such that death claimed him a few minutes after he reached the hospital.

Mr. Cowl, who was forty-one years old, was a patent attorney at 715 8th street northwest. He was a nephew of Benjamin Guy, of the firm of Guy, Curran & Co. A sister of the dead man lives in Minneapolis. Mrs. Cowl may not be able to attend the funeral of her husband tomorrow.