

Bradshaw Oliver

(- 17 Nov 1909)

Oliver. Suddenly on Wednesday, November 17, 1909 at his residence, Berryman avenue, Capitol Height Bradshaw, beloved husband of Mary E. Oliver. Funeral service at the chapel of Congressional cemetery on Saturday, November 30 a 2 p.m. Relatives invited to attend.

The Evening Star, November 20, 1909, p. 8

Death Charged to Paint Gas

Verdict at Inquest Over Body of Bradshaw Oliver

"Gases arising from paint" is given as the cause of death in the case of Bradshaw Oliver, thirty-nine years old, over whose body an inquest was held at Sea Pleasant, Prince George county, Md., last evening. Oliver died suddenly at Seat Pleasant last Wednesday afternoon while assisting two other employes of the Chesapeake Beach Railroad Company to paint the interior of a tank in the tender of one of the engines. The other men, Walter Riggles and Henry Arminger, narrowly escaped death at that time.

It was in evidence at the inquest, held by Magistrate Behrend, that the gas which is alleged to have killed Oliver came from a red paint that was being used, its effect being similar to that of carbon monoxide gas, witnesses stated.

Considerable interest was displayed at the hearing by friends of the deceased and officials of the railroad company, and experts were called to give testimony. Dr. L.W. Glazebrook, deputy coroner in this city, and Prof. J.D. Hird, former chemist in the health department, were among them.

Wednesday afternoon, it was stated, the three men were working in the tank of the tender, having entered through a large manhole in the top. There was a large valve in the bottom of the tank, which was open, and through which, it was thought, a good current of air would make the atmosphere comfortable.

No Thought of Danger

That the work was dangerous, it was stated, never entered the minds of the workmen. They had worked the red paint many times on exterior work without having experienced any trouble. Shortly after the trio went to work Wednesday afternoon one of them complained that he felt sick and said he would get out of the tank. Suddenly the others became sick and started to follow. Riggles and Arminger managed to get out, although it was about as much as they could do to get through the manhole.

Oliver was the last to make the attempt. He was unable to get out, however, and fell backward to the bottom of the tank. His limp and unconscious form was soon lifted from the tank, and efforts to resuscitate him proved futile. Dr. Glazebrook and Prof. Hird were summoned to participate in the investigation.

Result of Autopsy

An autopsy was performed by the former, while the latter made an analysis of a sample of paint furnished him. The paint, Prof. Hird reported, contained about 20 per cent of benzol, a coal tar product, which, it is stated, is dangerous to life. Dr. Glazebrook told the jury that he found conditions in the body of Oliver similar to those found in victims of monoxide gas poisoning.

The deceased leaves a widow and three children. His funeral took place from his late home, Capitol Heights, this afternoon. Services over the body were conducted in the chapel at Congressional cemetery, the interment being made at 2:30 o'clock.