

## **Emil Strickler**

**1879 – July 1931**

### **EMIL STRICKLER DIES FOLLOWING DYNAMITE BLAST**

#### **“Use Another Stick and Kill Me,” Injured Man Pleads**

Frightfully mangled when a stick of dynamite accidentally exploded in his hands while he was attaching a fuse preparatory to blasting around 7 o'clock Sunday evening in a stone quarry near Woodman, Grant county, Emil Strickler, 52 years of age, a native of Switzerland and a resident of Monticello and vicinity off and on for 26 years, passed away at 4:30 o'clock Monday morning in the Boscobel hospital where he was rushed immediately after the fatal accident.

Mr. Strickler's left arm was blown off a few inches above the wrist, his abdomen was so badly torn that his intestines were exposed, the upper joint of the thumb on his right hand was hurled away, and the remainder of the hand terribly mangled. He also suffered severe powder burns in his face, which was badly cut when he fell forward into the quarry. .

Otto Schiffman, aged 24, assistant to Mr. Strickler as “dynamiter” for the P. W. Ryan & Sons' road construction crew and well known in Monticello because of having previously worked in this vicinity, was drilling for the charge of dynamite when the tragic blast occurred.

“Use another stick and kill me, Otto,” Strickler, writhing in agony, pleaded to Schiffman when the latter hurried to his side.

With the aid of the road foreman, whom he called from nearby, Schiffman loaded Mr. Strickler into a car and sped to Boscobel where it was almost an hour before medical assistance could be obtained. Taken to the hospital, an operation was performed, but the seriousness of Mr. Strickler's condition made it apparent that death was only a matter of a few hours.

With amazing pluck considering his critical condition, Mr. Strickler retained consciousness until only about 20 minutes of his death, chatting with fellow road workers, and, realizing that the end was near, telling them to say goodbye to his friends.

A \$5,000 accident insurance policy was carried for Mr. Strickler by the Ryan construction firm, with whom he had been employed for the past two years. The money, it is said, will go to relatives in Switzerland.

Mr. Strickler was a native of Switzerland, having been born near Zurich. He came to this country in 1905 and had practically always been engaged in highway construction work. He was foreman of a county road crew in this vicinity for many years and spent his winters making wood for farmers in the local vicinity. Mr. Strickler was an unusually industrious person and his employers and persons who had watched him at work claim that he could accomplish as much or more in a day than two or three average men.

Because of his good-natured and industrious disposition, Mr. Strickler made many warm friends here He never shirked an assignment, always being willing to do more than his share. He was a kind hearted individual and a big friend of children, whom he frequently treated to favors.

Surviving Mr. Strickler are two sisters and one brother, all of whom reside in Switzerland. His parents, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Strickler, preceded him in death.

Funeral services were conducted at 2 o'clock Tuesday afternoon in the Voegeli funeral home in Monticello, with the Rev. A. Muehlmeier, pastor of the Reformed church, officiating. Interment was in Highland cemetery.

A large assemblage of people attended the final rites, including practically every member of the Ryan road construction group which was idle Monday and Tuesday out of respect for their deceased fellow worker.