

# Howard E. "Curly" Williams

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## Rites Incomplete For H. E. Williams

By Register Staff Writer

HINTON — Funeral arrangements remain incomplete for Howard Evan Williams, 22, who was electrocuted on a pole near the Avis sub-station yesterday morning.

He was employed as a lineman by the Virginia Electric and Power Company for two years, and received his promotion to second class lineman on Monday.

Dr. J. W. Stokes, county health officer, who made an examination of the body after efforts of the Rescue Squad to resuscitate him had failed, said that death was due to a heart attack induced by acute dilation.

Williams was one of a crew of nine men working under the direction of Andy Fink, and had just completed a 20-minute job of "dead-ending a wire," and had started down the pole, according to reports of the accident. He had reached a point some three or four feet below the lowest wire, where he stopped to unfasten his safety belt, but fell back in an apparent faint, his body sagging into the safety belt.

A fellow workman, E. L. Brown, at the bottom of the pole, said he failed to notice anything unusual before Williams slumped into his safety belt. Two other members of the crew Harold Ayers and Ralph Vass, who were working a short distance away, hurriedly lowered Williams to the ground. They said he appeared gasping for breath and choking when they reached him, but thought he was dead before he was lowered to the ground.

He is survived by his widow, the former Miss Sarah Brightwell, a daughter, Elizabeth Ann; his mother, Mrs. Ralph Williams, of Main street; two sisters: Mrs. Ray Phipps, of Hinton, and Mrs. Reva Orloff, of Washington, D. C., and a brother Reno Williams, of Hinton.

## AUTOPSY SHOWS BROKEN NECK CAUSED DEATH OF HOWARD E. WILLIAMS

HINTON, June 28—An autopsy performed on the body of Howard E. "Curly" Williams, 21, Virginia Electric & Power company lineman who died Tuesday while working on a pole near the old Avis Crossing, revealed that death was caused by a broken neck caused by a sudden jerk or movement.

No explanation of what caused the sudden jerk or movement, which resulted in a fracture between the third and fourth cervical vertebrae, was found at the autopsy, were offered by the physicians conducting it, Dr. B. B. Richmond, of Beckley, and Dr. J. W. Stokes, of Hinton, so far as could be learned.

Williams body was first noticed slumped into his safety harness some "three or four" feet below the wires on the pole on which he was working.

Funeral services for Williams were conducted this afternoon at the home of his father-in-law, D. J. Brightwell, on Temple street, by the Rev. H. P. Hackney, and burial followed in Greenbrier Burial Park.