

HOTEL ELEVATOR CRUSHES WORKMAN

Charles Walt Sustains Injuries
From Which He Is Not Ex-
pected to Recover.

Charles Walt, aged 33 years and married an employe of the St. Louis hotel, was probably fatally injured yesterday afternoon while attempting to get off the freight elevator of the hotel, at the kitchen floor. It was a most distressing accident, and the first serious one that has occurred in the hotel. His back was broken and his chest crushed.

Walt was hurried to St. Mary's hospital after first being examined by a physician. He was alive at last accounts but his case is hopeless. Mrs. Walt was at Eveleth, and she was notified of the accident by telegraph.

Charles Walt has for the past two weeks been assisting the engineer, Fred Voss, on steam fitting and pipe work, and yesterday afternoon they were at work in the kitchen, which is on the second floor. A leaky pipe was engaging their attention. Mr. Voss told Walt to go to the sub-basement and shut off the steam so that they could work on the pipe. Walt went over to the freight elevator and let himself down. He shut off the steam and started back in the elevator.

Just how the accident happened may never be known. The first intimation that anything was wrong was a scream for assistance from Walt from the elevator at the kitchen floor. It was a cry of agony as well. Mr. Voss hurried over just in time to see the freight elevator moving slowly upward to the next floor, and to hear the thud of Walt's body as it dropped to the bottom of the shaft in the sub-basement, three stories down.

Walt was still conscious when he was picked up, and he felt that he was badly hurt. He was in no condition to be questioned as to how the accident happened, but he bitterly bemoaned the ill fortune which had overtaken him, and said that he knew he could not recover.

It is presumed that Walt failed to stop the elevator at the floor where he was to get off, and that he undertook to raise the gate and step off while it was still in motion. He was not quick enough, perhaps, and was caught between the elevator and the gate. It was one that lifts, instead of sliding sidewise. The gate was torn off the groove, and had it not been for it giving away, it is said that Walt would have been cut in two.

Much sympathy is felt for Walt and his family. He is said to have been a steady and industrious man. There are two small children in the family.