

HIS RIDE WAS FATAL

AN ELECTRIC CAR KILLS FRED HOLM.

A Boy Becomes the First Victim of the Mission-Street Railway.

Fred Holm, a boy 15 years old, who lived at 409 Thirtieth street, was the victim yesterday of the first fatal accident on the Mission-street electric road. The fatality occurred about noon near the corner of Twenty-ninth and Church streets, at which place the boy was struck by a car, knocked down and crushed horribly beneath the forward guard and the truck. The body was so tightly jammed in about the guard that the woodwork had to be loosened before the lad's mangled remains could be removed.

The accident happened in such a way as to relieve the motorman of the car from blame. Young Holm had been stealing a ride out Twenty-ninth street on a car which he had boarded while the conductor was at the forward end collecting fares. The boy was hanging on to one of the iron handles placed on the very rear portion of the car, for the assistance of passengers in boarding or alighting. Holm was giving all his attention to the conductor, watching from his insecure position for the return of the fare collector, in order that he might alight before the ticket-puncher could reach him.

It was his eagerness to elude the conductor that cost the boy his life. With his gaze bent on the forward portion of the car he was on, the lad failed to keep his eyes open for a passing car on the track next to him. Then the conductor started back and Fred jumped off and landed squarely in front of car 1008, which was passing down the grade near Church street, in charge of Motorman B. E. Frazer. The car was on top of the boy in an instant. Frazer, who said he was running with his brakes set and with the current off, immediately reversed and sent the fluid rushing with a back action to the motors, which brought the car up within two-thirds of its own length.

The harm had been done, however, and the next move was to get the mangled form of the boy from under the wheels. Holm had been caught under the heavy wooden guard and carried well in toward the motor. As soon as the body was taken out it was seen that life was gone. The Coroner was notified and had the corpse removed to the Morgue.

Motorman Frazer surrendered himself at the Central Police Station, where he was charged with manslaughter. He was released upon his own recognizance by Judge Conlan. Frazer made a statement, in which he said that his car was within two feet of the boy. He reversed the current so quickly that a portion of the gearing broke, requiring the car to be sent to the house for repairs.

Superintendent Clark of the road spoke in most regretful tones regarding the accident. He remarked that the men had been greatly annoyed by the presence of children who had taken advantage of the novelty of the new line to jump on and off the cars in motion all along the road. Both the regular policemen and special officers in the neighborhood said that great trouble had been experienced in this regard.