

NEWS ITEM-BAD ACCIDENT AT DITCH CAMP-Wheatland World, Issue January 6,
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A serious accident occurred last Friday afternoon at the Townsend Ditch Camp on the Blue Grass, about 25 miles southwest of Wheatland, in which two laborers, Ed Sandberg and Frank Karban, were instantly killed, and Harry and George Townsend, sons of Contractor W.L. Townsend, seriously injured, the first named passing away on Wednesday afternoon about four o'clock from the effects of his injuries.

We made a brief mention of the accident last week, receiving the report of the accident just as we were going to press, but were misinformed, as the first reports that reached town were to the effect that one of the Townsend boys was killed outright.

The accident occurred about 4:30, just as the men were about to quit work for the day. Sandberg and Karban, who were employed as expert powder men, had drilled into a large quantity of rock and dirt and were filling the cavity with the blasting powder when the accident happened. It is not known just what caused the explosion, as the men were experienced in their line of work, and were always known to use the greatest precaution when handling the explosives.

Sandberg was blown a distance of about one hundred feet, over the brow of a hill, and sustained a fracture of the skull, which caused his death. Karban's death was also instantaneous, as his neck was broken by the force of the explosion.

The body of Frank Karban was shipped on Tuesday to Breckenridge, Oklahoma, where interment will be made, relatives of the deceased having been located at that place. It has been impossible, so far, to locate any of the relatives of Ed Sandberg or "Deadwood Slim" as he was called, and the remains will probably be interred at this place at county expense. Coroner Desmond came out from Cheyenne Sunday morning and held an inquest over the remains of the unfortunate men. The coroner's jury consisted of H.W. Loomis, C.G. Buechner, and John O'Brien.

Harry and George Townsend, sons of contractor W.L. Townsend, who were assisting the men in the work, were both seriously injured. George had a foot badly crushed, while Harry had injuries sustained about the head, his jaw bone being badly shattered, and it is possible that he was injured internally, as he succumbed to his injuries on Wednesday about four o'clock at the Wheatland sanatorium where he had been brought for treatment. George is being cared for at the Globe Hotel, where he is receiving medical treatment and is improving rapidly.