

NEWS ITEM, October 22, 1919

WHEATLAND MAN BURIED ALIVE IN NINETY FOOT WELL

The awful suspense attending the frightful accident which occurred to William (Billy) Saunders on last Thursday evening hangs like a pall on the entire community.

Mr. Saunders was digging a well for Mr. Osborne who lives south of town, and was down ninety-four feet; he had found a good flow of water but was having trouble with quick sand, and was building a cement tube or curbing to check the inflow of sand; this work was almost completed when at about 5:30 or 6:00 o'clock he notice dirt falling and called for the bucket. Mr. Osborne stared lowering it at once, but an avalanche of dirt fell before it could reach him, covering him with tons of dirt and sand, completely cutting off any help from those above.

The work of rescuing was begun at once and parties have been working day and night, but the progress is slow on account of the character of the soil, it being a gravel formation for about sixty feet, then a three foot strata of something like concrete, then the layer of sand, all of which made it necessary to sing a steel casing of sufficient size for a man to work in.

Opinions differ as to the time it will take to complete the work; some think Wednesday, and others reluctantly say it will take longer. Anxiety is shown on the face of every one we meet, and the sympathy of the entire community goes out to Mrs. Saunders and the children, of who there are five; two are boys and three are girls-Homer aged fourteen; Eunice, twelve; Imogene, eight; Kenneth, six, and Thelma four.

NEWS ITEM-October 29, 1919

Work on the shaft at the Osborne farm to find the body of Wm. Saunders is progressing rapidly, and at ten o'clock last night the shaft was down forty feet, the cribbing was in that depth and the workmen on the nightshift say the shaft should be down 50 feet at the time we go to press.

NEWS ITEM-November 5, 1919

EXPECT TO GET WILLIAM SAUNDERS' BODY THIS WEEK

Workers at the Osborne well are getting on with the work of putting down the new shaft very satisfactorily and at this writing (Tuesday noon) are down about 75 feet. Some trouble was experienced just above this depth, but the experience those working soon overcame the trouble and the men say they will only go to a depth of about 90 feet, when they will drift or tunnel across into the old shaft, and expect to be at the bottom of the old shaft this week, and recover the body of Mr. Saunders which has now been in the well over three weeks.

At the time we go to press the Osborne well is down about 80 feet.