

IN THE MATTER OF THE INQUEST HELD ON THE BODY OF JOHN EDWARD ROLANDO (Infant).

INQUEST HELD in the rear of 1109 East Park Street, Butte, Silver Bow County, State of Montana, on the 13th day of August, A .D. 1901, at 7 o'clock P.M. of said day, before SAMUEL P. JOHNSON, CORONER, and a JURY of six persons.

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TRANSCRIPT OF STENOGRAPHER'S NOTES OF THE EVIDENCE INTRODUCED AT SAID INQUEST.

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I N D E X.

	P a g e.
Couglin, Jerry -----	9.
Fountain, Oren -----	7.
Fountain, Mrs. Mary -----	4.
Rolando, Mrs. Katie -----	1.
Recalled -----	7.

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MRS. KATIE ROLANDO, after being first duly sworn, testified as follows.

DIRECT EXAMINATION.

by Samuel P. Johnson, Coroner.

Q --Your name in full, Mrs. Rolando?

A --Mrs. Katie Rolando.

Q -- You are the mother of the little boy that was burned?

A --Yes sir, I am the mother of the little boy.

Q --Please control yourself, Mrs. Rolando, and tell these gentlemen, the jury, how it happened. About what time was it last night?

A --I guess about nine o'clock. I could not say just exactly, but I think it was about that time.

Q --What happened at that time--about nine o'clock?

A --Every night before I go to bed I always make a little something for my little children, because I go to bed kind of late,--sometimes nine o'clock,--some times ten, and I had the things on the table and I went out to get some water and I left the candle back on the table and I went out and I heard my oldest little boy screaming and I run in again as fast as I could and I got inside my poor baby was in the bed room all ablaze.

Q --How big is your biggest boy?

A --He is four years old last month.

Q --Of course you don't know which one of them pulled the candle off the table?

A --I could not say which one done it.

Q --What did you do then?

A --I grabbed hold of him of course, like everybody would and I tried to save him and I thought it was Mr. Coughlin come first, but I have learned from the lady, Mrs. Fountain that she come

first and threw the water on him.

Q --You got the fire out here in the house, did you?

A --Yes sir, the fire was put out right in the kitchen there.

Mrs. Fountain carried him as far as the kitchen and threw water on him.

Q --About how long from the time you got in here until the fire was out?

A --It was only a second. I only just went outside the door and I heard the scream and I run back and there was my poor little baby on fire.

Q --It was not a lamp? It was a candle, was it?

A --No, it was a candle. I had the candle setting on the table.

Q --There would not be any coal oil then, --any coal oil or kerosene at all?

A --I don't know what become of the candle. It is some place now.

Q --You called a doctor, did you?

A --I hollered for everybody to go for a doctor, and I don't know how many went for him, but he come right away.

Q --What did he have to say about it? Did he consider it fatal?

A --We said he would not live. He said it was no use, he did not think he would live. He done all he could, but he said he did not think he could live.

Q --Did the child come to at all from the time he was burned until he died?

A --Yes, I think he come to about three o'clock, because he called "Mama"; and he always called milk and water Beer, and he

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called "Beer", and he drank his milk and water and drank his medicine, but it did not take long after that until he died. It was not long after that that he died.

Q--Who else was in the house then

A--When he was burned?

Q--Yes .

A--There was only the two children and myself and then afterwards there was a big crowd come.

Q--Where was your husband at the time?

A--He was working.

Q--Where does he work ?

A--At the Parrot Colusa or Colusa Parrot. I don't know which it is .

Q--Where did this happen, Mrs. Rolando? Give us the number and the street, as far as you can?

A--Well, this house is in the alley. It is No. 11 I guess it is. It is in the rear of 1109 East Park street.

Q--In Butte City, Montana?

A-- Yes sir.

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MRS. MARY FOUNTAIN, after being first duly sworn, testified as follows.

DIRECT EXAMINATION.

By Samuel P. Johnson, Coroner.

Q. --Your name in full, Mrs. Fountain?

A. --Mrs. Mary Fountain.

Q. --Where do you reside?

A. --1109 East Park street.

Q. - You have been acquainted with Mr. and Mrs. Rolando, I expect, for a long time?

A. -Oh yes I have been acquainted with them I guess pretty near five years---about five years.

Q. -You came to the house last night at the time of the accident to the little one, did you, Mrs. Fountain?

A. -Well, I was in my place sitting down sewing and all at once I heard Mrs. Rolando crying and screaming terribly and I thought something must be the matter and so I just took a jump and come over here just as quick as I could. I could not have come any faster. I come here just as quick as I could run from there over here, and when I come in she was screaming, --"My baby--my baby, --my baby". She was running from this room into the kitchen; and I seen the flame and I thought it was the room that was on fire. I did not know it was the baby at first, but she kept screaming--"My baby--my baby", and I says, "It can't be the baby that is on fire"; and so I run back in here (Meaning room where inquest was held) and there was a little bit of fire there (Indicating). Some of its clothes must have fell off; and he was just about there (Indicating),

and I could not see the baby at all. All I seen was just the flames .

Q --Wasn't he screaming?

A' -No, not then, or at least I did not hear him anyhow. I did not hear any screams then; and I just put my hand right in the flame--I did not know then whether it was the baby or not, but I just kind of thought it was by her screaming "My baby-my baby" and I put my hands right down in the flames and I got my hands all burned ; and I picked him up and I run out in the kitchen and dropped him on the floor and it was nothing but just a blaze of fire ; and I twisted around to see if I could not find a cloth or something and I happened to think of the bucket of water ,and I took the bucket of water and threw it over the floor and by that time I think Mr. Coughlin got in and I took the baby and wrapped it in a cloth and I started out with him, and I met my husband, and I says to him "Take the baby and take him down to our house." I say to her when I started, "I will take him down to my house", and she says, "Yes take him down to your house; and so I met my husband right outside and I says to my husband, "Take him", and so he took him down home ,and when he got down there he give him to me again until he cut his clothes off. He took ~~his~~ his knife and cut his clothing off. His clothes was all burned but his shoes and stocking was all right. They was not burned at all, and we took the shoes and stocking off and what was left of the clothes on him. We took them all off and then I sent my sister and my daughter for a doctor and before they got back I run down to Mr. and Mrs. Breen's and they told me the doctor was

on his way up ,and I think the doctor was there in about five minutes after I got back to our house; but he said the baby had inhaled the flames and he did not think he would ever wake up,and the poor little fellow died about six o'clock this morning . He come too and tried to talk all night at different times.

Q - The place of his death was 1109 East Park street, -at your house?

A ---No,he died here. They kept him down to my house may be about two hours or so and then he was brought back here.

Q. --he was brought back here again?

A--Yes sir ,Mr.Rolando got home from work and he wanted him brought home and I come over here and stayed all night.

Q. --and he died about six o'clock this morning?

A. - yes sir.

Q. -I don't understand how his clothes could burn so fast. There was no oil on his clothes was there? How could they burn so fast as they did?

A --Oh you know it is different clothing that they wear in the Summer time than inthe Winter time. You know children ain't dressed as warm in the Summer time as they are inthe Winter time . It is just thin cotton clothes they wear in the Summer time. I know show al ways wore little thin clothes on him in the Summer time.

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MRS. KATIE ROLANDO, after being recalled, testified as follows.

DIRECT EXAMINATION.

By Samuel P. Johnson, Coroner.

Q - Mrs. Rolando, what was the little one's age?

A. - He was nineteen months old the 21st of this month if he had of lived.

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OREN FOUNTAIN, after being first duly sworn, testified as follows.

DIRECT EXAMINATION.

By Samuel P. Johnson, Coroner.

Q. -- What is your name in full, Mr. Fountain?

A. -- Oren Fountain.

Q. -- Where do you reside?

A. -- 1109 East Park street.

Q. -- You are acquainted with Mr. and Mrs. Rolando?

A. -- Yes sir.

Q. -- You live right next door to them almost?

A. -- Yes sir.

Q. -- Your attention was called to the little one meeting with

the accident last night, was it?

A --Yes sir.

Q --You may state to the jury what you know about it?

A --I was sitting at home on my front stoop and my little girl come running around there and she says, ~~xx~~ "Rolando's house is on fire papa", and of course it was right in the neighborhood and it would make anyone get out anyhow and see where it was, and so I run right over there and I met my wife just outside the stoop here and I took the baby from here and brought him over home and put him on the lounge and I told my wife to hold him while I cut the clothes off him. You could see by his face that the rest of his body was all burned. There was nothing but just his waist and a piece of his petticoat on him. So after I had the clothes cut off, I laid him on a sheet and got some sweet oil and kept bathing him; and then they went and got some grated potatoes and put on him. They said that was good, and they were putting them on and I was holding the child myself; and when the doctor come he told me to put this other oil on that I had there; and I took and carried the baby around until one o'clock.

Q --When you got over here, where was the baby then?

A --My wife had him in her arms and she was just outside the steps here, and I took him from her and took him over home. I did not come inside the house here at all until we brought the baby back here.

JERRY COUGHLIN, after being first duly sworn, testified as follows.

DIRECT EXAMINATION.

By Samuel P. Johnson, Coroner.

Q. --What is your name in full, please?

A. ---Jerry Coughlin.

Q. ---Where do you reside, Mr. Coughlin?

A. --1165 East Park street.

Q. -You're acquainted with Mr. and Mrs. Rolando?

A. -Yes sir.

Q. --Were you around in this neighborhood last night at the time the little one met with the accident?

A. -Yes sir.

Q. --State to the jury what you seen of it, Mr. Coughlin?

A. --I was sitting in the kitchen there, --the second door from here, and I heard a enormous scream from here and I thought there must be something the matter, and so I come up in here, and I do n't know whether I met Mrs. Fountain or Mrs. Rolando herself with the child and they dropped it right on the floor at my feet right in front of the stove; and I grabbed a little skirt that was there and went to wrap it around the flame and at the same time someone threwed a bucket of water on me and the child both; and as soon as the water struck it it screamed; and they took it down to Mrs. Fountain's place; and there was some fire in here (Indicating), --a piece of clothing or something was burning, and when they took it down to Mrs. Fountain's place, I went home.

Q. --Did you notice any fire in the bedroom?

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A. ---No sir ,but the candle was right onthe floor right by that bureau (Indicating) there,--er dresser,--and I picked it up.

Q.--Did you notice Mrs. Rolando out around just previous to this?

A' --I did not notice. I believe I did see her at the hydrant a short time before that. Just a little while before that, and the child itself was there a little while before that. I did not think it hardly possible that it could get burned in such a short time after I seen it out there.

Q.--You don't know that the death of the little one was due to anybody's neglect in any shape or form?

A/--Oh no,I could not think it that way. I don 't think there is any children in the neighborhood that is more cared for than her children.

Q' --You did not wait until a ~~xxxx~~ doctor got here,did you?

A. --No,I run down and tried to get a doctor myself,and when I was going down the road I met Mrs.Fountain's sister and her daughter coming up and I asked them if they telephoned for a doctor and they told me they had. I went over to Mr.Fountain's house afterwards,but there was such a crowd there I did not want to crowd myself in. That was when the doctor was there and I did not want to crowd myself in until he was gone; and then I went over again to see how the child was,and he was resting then.

Q' --The doctor come as quick as possible,did he?

A/--- Yes,he come very quick.

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T E S T I M O N Y C L O S E D.
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State of Montana, } ss.
County of Silver Bow,

In the matter of an Inquest held at near 1109 East Park street, Butte
Silver Bow County, Montana, on the 13th day of August
A. D. 1901, before SAMUEL P. JOHNSON, Coroner of said County, on the dead
body of John E. Polando (infant), we, the undersigned Jurors,
after hearing the testimony and making all needful inquiries, do hereby return the
following verdict:

That deceased John E. Polando
came to his death at 6 o'clock of the
morning of August 13, 1901 in a house
in the rear of 1109 East Park street,
Butte, Silver-Bow County, Montana
from the result of burns received
~~on the~~ at 9 o'clock on the previous
evening; the jury further finds
that said burns were received by
the child igniting his clothing with
a lighted candle

In Testimony Whereof, The said Jurors have hereunto set their hands the day
and year aforesaid.

A. E. Misp SEAL
A. H. Whitche SEAL
A. W. S. Luer SEAL

Ned C. Hayes SEAL
Harry Zimmerman SEAL
C. B. Moriarty SEAL

State of Montana, } ss.
County of Silver Bow

In the Matter of the Inquisition, *Holden on the body of*

John Edward Rolando (Infant)

I, SAMUEL P. JOHNSON, Coroner in and for Silver Bow County, State of Montana, do hereby certify that the within and annexed evidence, together with the verdict of the jury, is a complete, true and correct transcript of proceedings had in the above entitled inquisition.

Samuel P. Johnson
Coroner.