

April 28, 1955

Lee Co. Man Dies In Alcoa Plant Fire

Clarence N. Frosch, 43, Lexington, was burned to death in a \$350,000 flash fire at the Alcoa plant at Rockdale Tuesday night.

The fire which swept through the metals building injured five other men, among them Robert Lee Ahrendt, 26, of Lexington, and Bowen Charles Sims, 38, of Tanglewood. None were injured seriously.

Funeral services for Frosch, the father of five children, will be held Thursday at 2 p. m. at the Methodist Church in Lexington. Rev. Leo Simon of Thorndale and Rev. Verlon Feller of Lexington will officiate. Burial will be in Lexington City Cemetery.

Frosch was a Lexington city commissioner, a member of the school board, and a member of the Lexington Lions Club and St. John's Lutheran Church.

His body was found in the charred ruins of the building early Wednesday after the blaze had been brought under control. The fire broke out at 10:50 p. m.

Alcoa officials said they were "baffled" as to the cause of the fire but reports were that a hydraulic pressure line had broken, spraying hydraulic fluid on Frosch and the hot casting machine at which he was working, igniting the fluid instantly.

The metals building where the fire occurred is a part of the new construction at the plant. The accident did not stop pro-

duction at the plant.

Frosch is survived by his widow; four daughters, Dorothy Jean, Vernell, Florence, and Lella Faye; an infant son, Clarence; three sisters, Mrs. Abert Winkler of Lexington and Mrs. Alma Kretzer and Mrs. Roy Kokel of Waco; and two brothers, Otto of Dallas and Herbert of Lincoln.