



Rex Reed

Eugene Fire and EMS Department

Date of Death: November 28, 1928

At 1905 hours on November 28, 1928, Chemical Engine #1 and #2 were responding to a reported structure fire near what is now the University of Oregon Physical Plant. The fire station was located at 11th and Willamette Streets. At the time the main Southern Pacific rail line was located on the south side of what we now know as Franklin Boulevard. There was a level grade crossing at 11th Avenue. The engines were responding code three eastbound on 11th. As they approached the railroad crossing they could see a glow in the night sky indicating a working structure fire. Autos were yielding the right of way along 11th. As Engine #1 crossed the tracks a large fireball erupted. The driver of the yielded northbound auto could only see fire and feel pieces of debris striking his auto. The northbound Shasta Limited line of the Southern Pacific Railroad had impacted Engine #1 midship and ripped it in two. Chief Nusebaum and Firefighter Weber were both thrown from the engine and suffered lacerations, contusions, and abrasions. Driver Rex Reed was trapped in the engine and taken 60 yards north. His crew along with citizens worked to free him, and he was rushed to the hospital. He was unconscious with massive head, thorax, and leg trauma. The Department summoned Rex's wife Golda to the Hospital where she stayed by her husband's side. Rex did not regain consciousness and died at 2100 hours.

