

JAMES A. BROADDUS DIES OF GUN BLAST

Son of Kansas City Appeals Court Judge Is Victim at Home

SAYS DEATH ACCIDENTAL

A Deputy Coroner Reports Shotgun Falls in a Closet and Discharges

James A. Broaddus, 39, a trial lawyer for the Missouri Highway department here, died late yesterday after the accidental discharge of a shotgun at his home, 5911 Grand avenue.



James A. Broaddus

He was the son of Judge James W. Broaddus of the Kansas City Court of Appeals.

Blast by Shotgun

Joseph Connors, a deputy coroner, said last night that Broaddus was struck in the back of the head by a blast from a 20-gauge shotgun.

He said the gun apparently fell from a leaning position in a closet and discharged. The accident occurred in a second-floor bedroom.

Mrs. Janet Broaddus told authorities that her husband arrived home about 5:15 o'clock and asked about dinner. She said that he told her he was hungry and that he would be down to eat after changing into lighter clothing.

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He had been upstairs just a few minutes, Mrs. Broaddus said, when their youngest son, Phillip C. Broaddus, 3 years old, came to her and said something had happened to his father. Thinking he was ill, Mrs. Broaddus went upstairs and found the body.

Doesn't Hear Shot

She told Connors she did not hear the shot. The deputy coroner said a large window fan was operating at the time of the accident.

Detectives said the body was lying in front of the closet and the shotgun was lying in the doorway. Another shotgun was found in the closet.

A detective said the blast came from inside the closet. He said the gun apparently was knocked over while Broaddus was changing clothes. It could have been discharged when it fell, he said, or possibly the man tried to grab it as it was falling and it discharged.

A similar accident occurred yesterday morning when Melvin E. Kleb, 47, of 5049 Wornall road, was wounded in the abdomen by a bullet from a .22-caliber rifle which fell from a clothes closet. Kleb, a real estate developer and investor, was in critical condition last night at St. Luke's hospital.

Broaddus was a lifelong resident of Kansas City and was a graduate of the University of Kansas City school of law. He had been a trust officer at the City National bank and maintained a private law office before joining the Missouri Highway department.

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He was a member of the Second Presbyterian church; the Ivanhoe Masonic lodge; the Phi Gamma Delta social fraternity and Phi Delta Phi, law fraternity.

A Naval Veteran

He was a Navy veteran of World War II and the Korean conflict. He was a lieutenant.

Also surviving are his mother, Mrs. Bessie Broaddus of 1001 West Gregory boulevard, and two other sons, James Gregory Broaddus and Thomas Allen Broaddus, both of the home.

The body was taken to the Newcomer chapel, Brush Creek boulevard and the Paseo.