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ANESTHESIOLOGY REFLECTIONS FROM THE WOOD LIBRARY-MUSEUM

Would Chest Compressions from 57 Rescuers Save Albert Frick from Landry's Paralysis?



Four days after undergoing two dental extractions, 22-yr-old Albert R. Frick (1904 to 1927) found himself hospitalized in a wheelchair as first his legs weakened and then his diaphragm became completely flaccid from acute ascending or Landry's paralysis, now better known as Guillain-Barré syndrome. For 4 days in St. Francis Hospital, Evanston, Illinois, Frick's employer (*far right*), Frick's father (*next to the employer*), and scores of friends and coworkers toiled in pairs to rhythmically compress and release Frick's chest. Finally, at 10:02 PM on Thursday, March 10, 1927, Albert Frick was pronounced dead. Before critical care and ventilators were commonplace, salesmen, bookkeepers, stenographers—all told, 57 rescuers—had tried to keep young Frick breathing during his 108 h of respiratory paralysis. (Copyright © the American Society of Anesthesiologists' Wood Library-Museum of Anesthesiology.)

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