

# THE VICTORIA ADVOCATE

Saturday, October 31, 1981—3A

## Industrial Accident

# Jury Awards Damages

Jurors in 135th District Court took more than five hours Friday to reach a verdict granting one of the largest awards in the county's history.

They claimed that Robert L. Teakell of Houston had incurred damages totalling \$355,612 as a result of injuries he received in a Victoria County industrial accident Nov. 2, 1977.

Judge Frank Crain said it was the largest award he had been associated with in Victoria County, and other judges could not recall any larger.

Crain will be asked to include the award in a final judgment written during the next several weeks. Teakell's attorney, Richard Mithoff of Houston, said he was satisfied with the recommendation even though plaintiffs had asked for \$750,000 in damages.

"We had argued that liability (for the accident) be shared," Mithoff stated, "which is what the jury finally decided."

Jurors assigned most of the blame for the accident to the Perma Stone Co. and T.G. Glispin who were the general contractors at Teakell's project. The panel said

Perma Stone should have made sure the work site was safer by making sure a power line over the property had been cut off. Jurors said Perma Stone was responsible for 60 percent of the mishap.

The Victoria County Electric Co-Op was assigned with 30 percent of the blame, jurors calculated. It had not been told to cut off power to the line and therefore should not be held responsible for that, but it should have made certain workers knew power was on, jurors ruled.

They failed to assign any liability to Travis Vollmering of Inez who owned the property but did contend that Teakell was responsible for 10 percent of the accident. He should have been more cautious in working around the power line, jurors deter-

mined.

Teakell sued Glispin, Perma Stone, Vollmering and the co-op for negligence after he was electrocuted while carrying a piece of iron on the work site.

Defendants had denied they were responsible for the mishap and each had asked that the other defendants be held liable for damages.

Testimony started Wednesday and concluded Thursday. Jurors deliberated about three hours Thursday and more than five hours Friday before returning the verdict.

Members of the panel were Earl C. Ward, Cathy Sue Haas, Rosalie Machac, Dawn E. Heibel, Maria De Los Santos, Raymond Cano, Jerry Ivicic, Gloria L. Zapata, John B. Weems, Willie Raymond Knowles, Rebecca Ann Pauley and George R. Carroll.