

A \$3,200,000 JUDGMENT

The following article appeared in the *Chicago Sun-Times*, February 10, 1973.

Amputee wins \$2.5 million

A \$2.5-million judgment, the largest ever awarded to one person in an Illinois personal injury suit, was announced Friday in the Civic Center.

The amount was determined by five men and seven women on a jury Thursday night in Circuit Court.

A 24-year-old Ottawa (Ill.) construction laborer was the plaintiff in the trial.

Kevin J. Burke lost both legs below the knee and his right arm below the elbow in a 1970 crane accident during a Sanitary District land reclamation project near Ottawa.

Another man was killed and one injured when the crane touched high-tension electrical power lines. Both were from Ottawa.

According to Louis G. Davidson, Burke's lawyer in the case, his client was struck by one of the falling lines.

An associate of Davidson's explained that, as a result of complicated legal maneuvering and one other decision by the jury, the defendants who probably will have to pay are the Illinois Power Co. of Decatur and FMC Inc., manufacturer of the crane.

A lawyer for the power company told reporters he would probably appeal the decision.

The highest previous settlement for an individual in the state was \$2 million, awarded four years ago in an air crash case.

The widow of the deceased settled out of Court for \$100,000.

The other man injured settled out of Court for \$600,000.

The Total Judgment for this one contact with an overhead powerline was \$3,200,000.

BOWER INDUSTRIES, INC. WAS AN EXPERT WITNESS AT THE TRIAL

