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CATASTROPHE IN WASHINGTON WHEN ROOF FALLS

(Continued from page one.)

checked records. More than 100 persons were injured in the crash. Of the dead, 104 had been identified Sunday night. The large majority of



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both killed and injured were local residents, although many came recently from other places. Exploration of the ruins went on unchecked after dark but those in charge believed few additional bodies would be found. Without regard to their own risk, soldiers, marines, sailors, police, firemen and citizen volunteers had fought their way beneath the wreckage over practically the whole floorspace of the auditorium.

The exact number in the theatre when the steel and concrete span of the roof buckled and fell under its three-foot load of snow probably never will be known. The stories of perhaps a hundred who got out uninjured have

been reported. These account for a few more than 300 in the audience that was roaring in laughter at a film comedy when the roof fell on them like a blanket, carrying down the front of the wide balcony in its crash.

Attendance Light. Normally the theatre has had every seat filled at that hour and nearly 2000 persons was its capacity. The same unprecedented snowfall which brought death to the venturesome few, kept many at home. Street car traffic had been abandoned and streets and sidewalks were all but impassable.

There has not been time for official inquiry as to the cause of the disaster. The ruins disclose, however, that the mass of steel-held concrete that formed the roof had come down. The crash swept the supports from under the balcony, apparently, and this hinged down at an angle of 45 degrees adding to the tangled wreckage on the floor below.

Most of the bodies were recovered from the floor of the pit beneath the wreckage of the balcony or from the front of the balcony. Persons on the main floor had grouped themselves just below the front of the balcony. They were back far enough to see wall and most of the front and back rows were empty.

No Wood. The front rows of the balcony were ground to a twisted mass. There was no wood in the structure. It was all steel and concrete but the enormous weight of the balcony was sufficient to win the tortured beams into fantastic shapes.

Harding Shocked. (By Associated Press) WASHINGTON, Jan. 30.—President Harding issued the following statement late Sunday on the Knickerbocker disaster:

"I have experienced the same astounding shock and the same inexpressible sorrow which has come to all of Washington and which will be sympathetically felt throughout the land. If I knew aught to say to soften the sorrow of hundreds who are so suddenly bereaved; if I could say a word to cheer the maimed and suffering, I would gladly do it. The terrible tragedy, staged in the midst of the great storm has deeply depressed all of us and left us wondering about the revolving fates."

(By Associated Press) WASHINGTON, Jan. 30.—Sleeping peacefully beneath the debris in the wrecked Knickerbocker theatre, two girls, four and six, were found Sunday by rescuers, 10 hours after the roof had fallen. Apparently neither was badly hurt. They were taken to a hospital without identification.

(By Associated Press) WASHINGTON, Jan. 30.—An avalanche of broken plaster, bricks, snow, splintered wood and twisted steel beams catapulted on the audience while the orchestra played and a comedy film ground out, is the description of the Knickerbocker theatre disaster given Sunday by Representative John H. Smithwick of Pensacola, Fla. He was in the balcony when the roof collapsed under its weight of snow. He escaped unscathed—just how, he cannot recall—with more or less serious hurts.

Much Bravery. (By Associated Press) WASHINGTON, Jan. 30.—Many brave deeds were reported Sunday by rescuers working in the Knickerbocker theatre wreckage, but they said Albert G. Pophler of Washington was the outstanding hero, giving his own life that others might live. He could have been taken from the debris fully an hour before he was, but he directed the rescuers to aid others whom he declared more seriously hurt than he. He died soon after he was removed.

(By Associated Press) WASHINGTON, Jan. 30.—Recovered from the wreck and terror of the ruined theatre, a pitiful stream of mangled bodies, dead and living, flowed all Saturday night and Sunday into the lower rooms of a Christian Science church a few hundred yards away. At the first word of the disaster the place was thrown open to those struck

Advertisement for White Goods featuring Muslins, Damasks, and Pillow Tubing. Includes a large illustration of a woman in a long dress and a list of products with prices.

Advertisement for Carr's Carr's Complete Home Furnisher, featuring the slogan 'Where Your Credit Is Good Use It'.

Advertisement for Anthony's City Restaurant and Bakery, listing various pastries and a family restaurant with a lunch counter.

Advertisement for LA GRANDE INVESTMENT COMPANY, offering reliable agents for insurance companies.

Advertisement for S.H.E.R.R.Y.'S 'Buried Treasure' featuring Marion Davies in a comedy production.

Advertisement for Market News.

(By Associated Press) PORTLAND, Jan. 30.—Cattle were steady today and hogs 2 1/2 to 30 cents higher, prime lights being \$10 to \$10.25. Sheep were steady and eggs weak to unsettled. Butter was steady

Advertisement for Dr. King's New Discovery For Colds and Coughs, describing its effectiveness for various ailments.

Advertisement for FOLEY'S HONEY-TAR, featuring a testimonial about a child with croup and a list of agents.

Advertisement for Hooverized Sugar, Advanced 10c More, featuring the slogan 'Where The Thrifty Throng HOOVERIZED'.