

GEORGIA WRECK TERRIBLE SCENE

John Gillespie, Ex-Police
Commissioner, Tells of
Fatal Collision

ATLANTA, Ga., Dec. 24. (AP)—Under the blood red glare of danger flares placed by railroad men, John Gillespie, former Detroit police commissioner, led rescue workers in removing dead and injured from the wrecked cars of the northbound Ponce de Leon and the southbound Royal Palm at Rockmart, Ga.

Gillespie, who arrived here on this part of the Ponce de Leon which was able to move, told of the dead men hanging out of windows decapitated; women, unrecognizable corpses, and badly mutilated. The train on which Gillespie reached Atlanta brought word of the dead and injured as well as those uninjured who were rescued and continued toward their destinations, to be there Christmas day.

Crash Without Warning.
The crash came at 8:40 p. m. entirely without warning and while the train was making about 30 miles per hour, said Gillespie. "I was in the second car behind the diner and every person in our car was thrown to the floor. The impact was terrible and the train

jerked, groaned and creaked.

"There was a great crunching, crashing sound and windows caved in almost the length of the car. If the brakes on our train were applied at all, it was at the very moment of the crash.

"As soon as I realized what had happened I got out and began investigating the damage and how it all happened. The fireman of a freight train, which was on the siding told me that the Ponce de Leon had sped toward his train and the on-coming Royal Palm which was around a slight bend, and that as the Ponce de Leon approached and the freight engineer realized that for some reason the northbound train was unaware of the existence of the other southbound, immediately signalled to make an emergency stop. It was too late, however, and the crash resulted a few seconds later."

Gillespie then climbed along the fifteen foot embankment on which the train rested, and in a deep mud galled the cars ahead. "The day coach was virtually drawn through the diner, and telescoped the entire engine with its top extending several feet above the top of the diner," Gillespie went on. "The lights in the diner were out and because of the extreme darkness and pouring rain it was impossible to see inside but it took but one glance to prove that death had stalked heavily. I gathered two or three uninjured men and commandeered an auto which had stopped in passing and we went to Rockmart for aid."

Posses Scouring Ozark Hills for Killer of Woman

SPRINGFIELD, Mo., Dec. 24. (AP)—Posses were scouring the Ozark hills today for a trace of Richard Lawrence, 40, a farmer residing five miles northeast of Protom, Taney county, who yesterday shot and killed Mrs. L. A. Atkinson, 40, a widow and neighbor, and seriously wounded her only son, Chas., 19.

Lawrence, who is a former school teacher of Washington, Oregon and Idaho, resided about half a mile from Mrs. Atkinson, and last summer rented a portion of her 150-acre farm. Several disputes ensued over the rented land, neighbors said. Yesterday Mrs. Atkinson and her son went in a wagon to a neighbor's to borrow a barrel. On the return, they had to drive through a short public lane that crossed one corner of Lawrence's farm. Lawrence resented this and the fatal quarrel followed.

At Rockmart, Gillespie obtained several ladders and lanterns and with doctors and volunteer nurses following and with relief requested from Rome, Atlanta and other cities, returned to the wreck. There bonfires were lighted from wreckage and clothing, both for purposes of light and warmth.

"The uninjured and the people

of Rockmart soon cooperated in the work of rescue and went at it coolly and in determined manner," he said. "As fast as bodies were removed they were laid aside in a nearby field and we did not take time to try to identify those we knew were dead. Lives had to be saved, and it was the injured that were worked after."

As the light was made available scenes of horror greeted the eye, said Gillespie.

"From two windows of the diner, I saw terribly torn parts of two negro waiters' bodies hanging, their white coats smeared with blood. From another window I dragged the decapitated body of an apparently middle-aged white woman. Two tots who expected to greet Santa Claus tomorrow, he thought, were so badly crushed that identification will be almost impossible. Through one window of the diner we saw a man still seated in a chair at the table. Apparently he was only dazed. We got him out somehow and found his body had been severed just below the waist."

Detailing the rescue work, Gillespie said men stood on one another's shoulders to talk to the voices in the dark car of death and to obtain directions as to how best to extricate them. Ladders were placed against the sides of the wrecked cars.

By way of emphasizing the force of the impact, Gillespie pointed out that the dining car was one of modern all-steel construction. This was confirmed at the Southern Railway offices here.

PAN-AMERICAN FLIGHT HALTED

Burned Out Motor Causes
Wait for Repairs at
Tampico, Mexico

WASHINGTON, Dec. 24. (AP)—The army's pan-American flight will be halted temporarily at Tampico, Mexico, because the airplane St. Louis burned out its motor yesterday and must await a replacement from Duncan field, San Antonio, Tex. A message to the war department from Major H. A. Dargue, commanding the flight, said that while the San Francisco had proceeded to Vera Cruz, the other ships would remain at Tampico until the St. Louis was re-engined and ready to proceed.

Major Dargue and others of the flight personnel in the meantime will complete their visit to Mexico City by rail from Tampico.

MOVES TO KLAMATH

TILLAMOOK, Dec. 24. (AP)—Mrs. Eva N. McGee, who was tried here in November on a charge of slaying her husband, Dr. W. G. McGee, left Wednesday afternoon for Klamath Falls, where she will make her home. She was accompanied by her son Donald. Mrs. McGee will return for a new trial if the case comes up the first of the year.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS!!

STAR THEATRE

TONIGHT
BUCK JONES

in
"30 BELOW ZERO"
Wild Westerner Burns Up
Polar Regions
And
"MADAME DYNAMITE"
Fox Comedy

SATURDAY
BILL CODY

in
"King of the Saddle"
A red-blooded action story
of the West
Also
"BUSTER'S SLEIGHRIDE"
Buster Brown Comedy

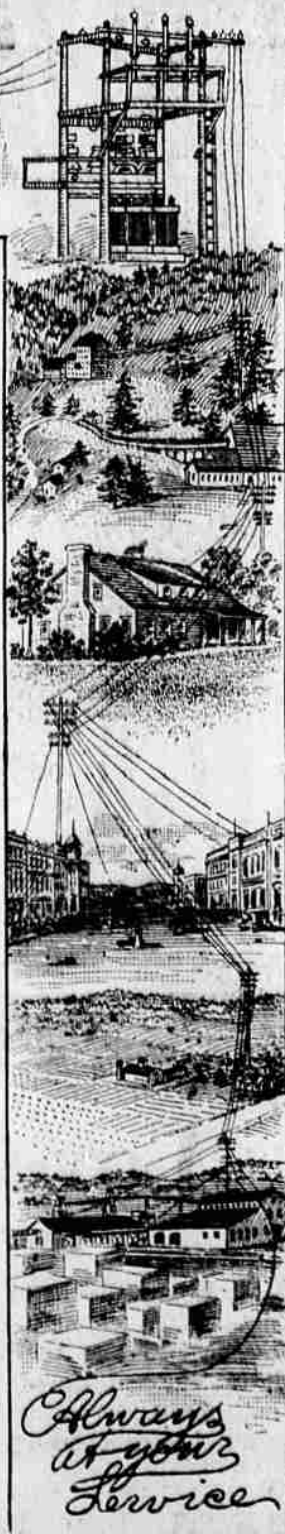
SUNDAY

in
FLORENCE VIDOR And
CLIVE BROOK
"The Popular Sin"
A smart and snappy "funny
film"
And
HARRY MYERS in
"GET 'EM YOUNG"
A Pathe Comedy

DON'T FORGET the free show for the children Christmas morning at 9:45. Out in plenty of time for the Elks' tree.



May the golden glow of a truly
Merry Christmas
Light your way into a
Happy New Year



Your
Good Will--
A Priceless
Gift!

Though abstract it
is a highly valued as-
set for which we take
this holiday oppor-
tunity to express our
sincere appreciation.

Thus to our friends
we extend cordial
Greetings of the Sea-
son and express the
hope that 1927 will be
most happy and pros-
perous for you.

Mt. Emily
Lumber
Co.

La Grande, Ore.



A DECLARATION

To render the
most dependable
and courteous
service *

To the greatest
possible number
of people *

At the lowest cost
consistent with
fair wages to the
labor and capital
employed *

Giving and
deserving fair
treatment *

thus
To be a factor
in upbuilding
this community *

Is the objective
of this company.

Eastern Oregon Light & Power Co.