

PRINEVILLE REVIEW.

EXTRA EDITION.

PRINEVILLE, OR., SUNDAY, DECEMBER 30, 1894.

A SAD CHRISTMAS.

The Little Town of Silver Lake Mourns for Its Departed.

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVITIES
TURNED TO SORROW.

Forty Men, Women and Children Are
Caught in a Fire Trap and Per-
ish in the Flames.

The Worst Holocaust Ever Reported
in the State.

On Christmas eve, as the people of Silver Lake and vicinity were assembled to give and receive tokens of friendship and love for each other, they were made the subjects of one of those visitations of Providence, not left for mortal man to explain or even comprehend.

The following meagre particulars were furnished us by the kindness of Mrs. Jas. Vanderpool, from a letter hastily written by her son-in-law, Warren Duncan, a resident of Silver Lake:

The accident occurred in a two-story building the lower story of which was used for mercantile purposes and the upper story for a public hall. The writer begins his letter with the statement that "It was one of the most heartrending scenes man ever witnessed." Himself and family escaped, as did the balance who were saved, by jumping from the upper window to the ground 14 feet below.

The hall was filled, and busily engaged in the exercises, when a large gallon lamp exploded immediately over the door. The flames increased so rapidly as to almost immediately cut off all passage at the door which seems to have been all the means of ingress and egress except the windows. The people immediately began jumping from the windows, but the fire increased so rapidly that forty, out of one hundred and seventy-five, perished in the flames, and a number was seriously burned and hurt, some fatally.

An idea of some of the scenes which occurred in that fiery cauldron may be had by a few quotations from Mr. Duncan's hastily written letter. "As luck would have it I saved my family, I got Ida and jumped to the ground, fourteen feet. Ida sprained her ankle badly. Leslie got the back of head and ears burned to a blister. He escaped at the door. A number of people are burned so badly they are not expected to live."

Following is a list of those who perished, some of whom were former residents of Prineville, and nearly all of whom have relatives or acquaintances here:

Mrs. Abshire, aged 43.
Mrs. John Burick, aged 37.
Davie Burick, aged 4.
J. J. Burick, aged 33.
Lena Burick, aged 5.
Fred Burick, aged 8.
E. t. Bowen, aged 25.
Mrs. Lute Coshow, aged 36.
Mrs. Howard, aged 40.
Harry Howard, aged 5.
Bessie Howard, aged 2.
Woodford Hearst, aged 28.
Mrs. Ada Hearst, aged 18.
Ira Hamilton, aged 3.
Laura McCauley, aged 18.
Clay Martin, aged 39.
Mrs. Rebekah Martin, aged 36.
Buel Ward, aged 1.
Mrs. Owsley, aged 61.
Lily Owsley, aged 25.
Bruce Owsley, aged 22.
Hazel Labree, aged 1.
Mrs. Snelling, aged 63.
Lucinda Streeter, aged 27.
Eston Streeter, aged 3.
Frankie Horning, aged 6.
Mrs. Bayne, aged 45.
Robert Small, aged 11.
Samuel Ward, aged 66.
Mrs. D. D. Ward, aged 19.
Etta Ward, aged 1.
Mrs. Williams, aged 37.
Henry Williams, aged 5.
Frank Ross, aged 23.
Mrs. Phillips, aged 43.
Daisy Phillips, aged 4.
H. F. West, aged 52.
Mrs. West, aged 34.
Bertha and Herbert West, twins, aged 5.