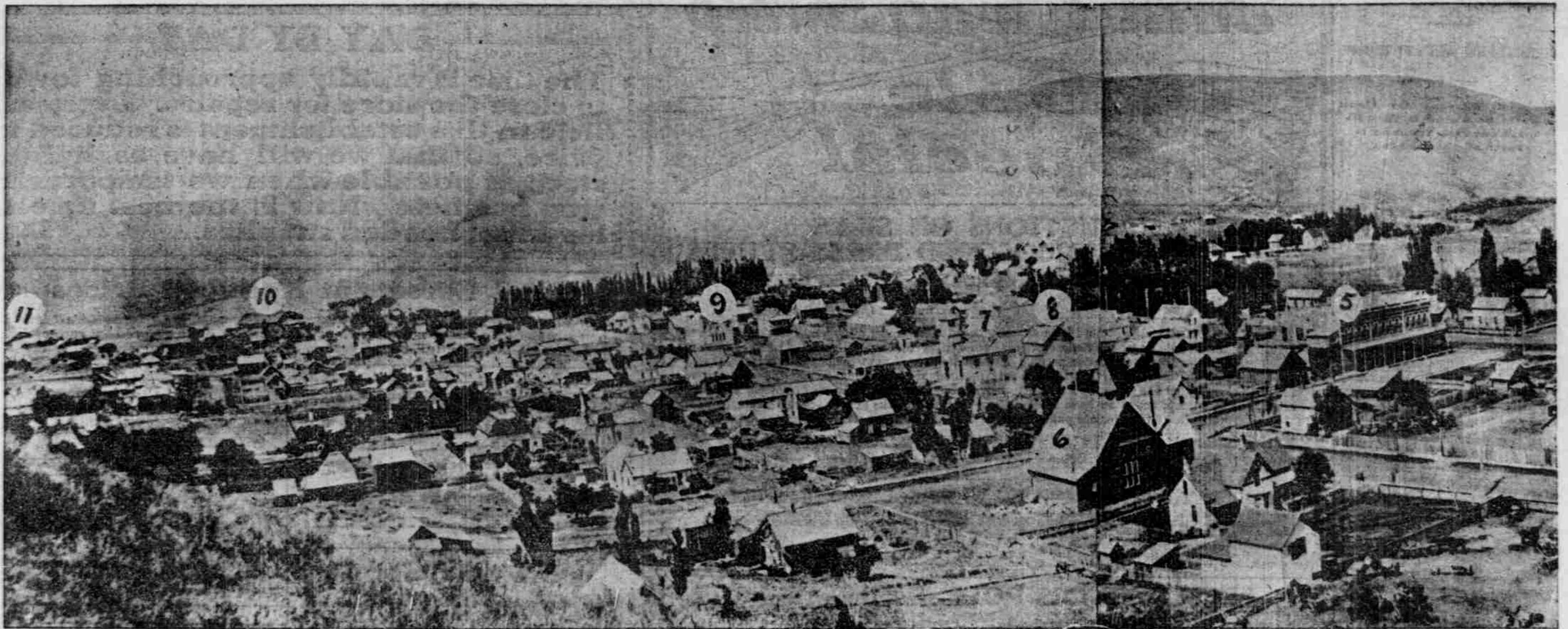


PANORAMIC VIEW OF HEPPNER, PARTLY DESTROYED BY FLOOD—LINE OF TREES SHOWS



1. PALACE HOTEL.

2. COURTHOUSE.

3. FLOUR MILLS.

4. SCHOOLHOUSE.

5. HEPPNER BUILDING.

6. CHRISTIAN CHURCH.

LOSS OF LIFE REACHES 300

(Continued from First Page.)

escaped. Mrs. Elder was drowned in her residence. The house of Mr. Boyd and Mr. Walton were also destroyed, and both families lost. Mr. Bartholomew succeeded in saving all persons in his residence, although they were badly bruised. The house itself was washed away.

Fifty Guests Lost.

Perhaps the greatest loss occurred at the Heppner Hotel. This house, which was run under the management of Jones & Ashbaugh, was carried away. It is supposed that there were about 50 guests in this hotel, all of whom are reported to be lost. The proprietors themselves were saved, but their families are among the dead. The houses of Ben Patterson, Mr. Guen and Mr. Noble were entirely demolished, and all persons in these three families drowned, as were the families of James Jones and Henry Blair. The barn of Dr. Swineburn and the big liverystable of Whittles & Meadows were entirely destroyed. E. J. Farnsworth and Philip Cohn were also drowned. The entire residence portion of Heppner was destroyed, but the business houses, being on higher ground, and being generally built of brick and stone, were not so badly damaged. The schoolhouse and Courthouse, which stand on a sidewalk, were saved, but two churches, the Methodist and Presbyterian, were completely wrecked. Around the depot the receding flood left great heaps of driftwood piled as high, and higher than the roof and the rescuing parties were forced to demolish these pyramids of timber in order to extricate the corpses which were tangled in the brush. Undoubtedly many of the drowned bodies were carried by the rushing waters down the valley. It is reported that three bodies were found near Lexington, nine miles below Heppner, but there were no fatalities in Lexington. No systematic effort has been made to find the dead, who are undoubtedly strewn along the canyon. Every available man from a radius of 65 miles, has been pressed into service at Heppner itself. Gangs of men are at work clearing away the piles of debris, rocks, and timbers, which lie piled in Heppner's streets, and taking out the corpses which are thus concealed.

Many Already Buried.

About 200 persons have been buried in Heppner's graveyard today. Owing to the entire absence of proper facilities for caring for the dead, the victims of the flood were, for the most part, interred in common crates. The gladiators, who are usually found, like human vultures, rifling the pockets of the slain in such great disasters as this one which has stricken Heppner, are in this case fortunately absent, and the vigilance committee and patrols which were so necessary at Johnstown and Galveston floods, seem to be unnecessary in Oregon.

A relief train sent from The Dalles reached Heppner tonight, and will proceed to Heppner as soon as possible. A wrecking train, with gangs of men to repair both the tracks and telegraph wires, will leave this point tonight. It is expected that communication with Lexington, 17 miles from Heppner, will be restored early in the morning. On board The Dalles train are five doctors, six trained nurses, a committee of 20 Elks, and another of six Elks, with all necessary drugs and supplies, to care for the sick and wounded. There is also a car of provisions.

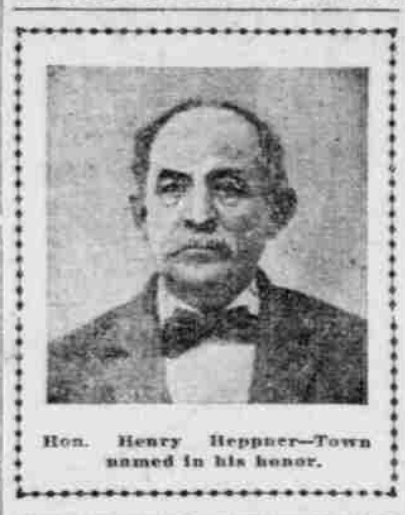
Related Deluge Comes.

L. D. Colby, a rancher, whose house is almost on the banks of Willow Creek, near Cecil, 21 miles from Heppner, said the flood went past his residence at 5 o'clock this morning.

"We had no notice of its coming," said Mr. Colby, "except a low roaring sound. We looked out at the creek, and the water was rising in it rapidly. In a few minutes the little creek swelled into a torrent, and great quantities of hay and driftwood came rushing past on its surface. At this particular point the banks of the creek are quite high, and, while the flood did not overflow them, it ate great holes in the east loan, and the channel appears to have been slightly altered. The crest of the flood soon passed, but the creek is still very much swollen."

A mile or so above the Colby ranch is the farm of C. C. Curtin. Here the waters

burst from the river banks and rushed over the surrounding meadows, sweeping a good hundred tons of newly-cut hay from the fields where it lay stacked, and scattering it broadcast over the valley. At Douglas, six miles further up the valley, the cloudburst did little damage. The residents had been warned of the coming peril by Leslie Hatlock, of Heppner, who made a wild ride from the stricken town to Arlington. At Douglas Matlock gave his hurried warning about midnight, and within 30 minutes the creek began to rise. The extreme height was not reached until 4 o'clock in the morning. The torrent overtopped its banks at several places in this vicinity, but beyond drowning a few hogs and spoiling some hay, did little damage. In one field all the piled-up hay was floated by the water



Hon. Henry Heppner-Town named in his honor.

and carried to the fence. Here kindly bar-wires detained it, and the subiding flood left it hung on the fence to dry.

Mr. Londell's Escape.
One of the most remarkable escapes was that of August Londell and his family. Mr. Londell climbed a tree with two children. While in the tree some one threw him a rope. His house came floating by with his wife entreating help from a window. He flung the rope to her and she caught it. Yelling to her to hang fast, he dragged her through the water to him. She was completely under water part of the time, but did not let go her hold. When asked afterward how he did it, he said:

"God knows how it all happened. I cannot describe it."

Tom Matlock, brother to Leslie Matlock, who gave the alarm, saved his child, a little girl, by swimming for her in the flood. Friends tried to restrain him



Hon. J. L. Morrow, Morrow County's Representative.

from going to his child's rescue, as the attempt seemed suicidal, but he went in nevertheless, and brought the little one to shore, though his wife and the rest of the family are reported lost.

People Flee to Hills.
At Heppner immediately after the alarm all the townspeople fled to the hills on the same side of the creek upon which the town is built, with the exception of seven people, who live close to the bridge across the creek, and who rushed across the bridge to the hill on that side.

Two old ladies, Mrs. Acre and Mrs. Sheld, and Tom Colvin, his wife and two children were those who spent the entire night on that side of the river. Nearly

all the other townspeople returned to their homes by 3 or 4 o'clock in the morning. When Mrs. W. J. Blake returned she was obliged to wade knee-deep in mud and water through her yard. Mrs. Blake is prostrated from the excitement, but the homes of Mr. Blake and of other townspeople are being freely bestowed to all wayfarers. The only narrow escape from drowning reported at Heppner was that of William Allen, who was crossing a board walk.

The rush of water suddenly flung the walk over and on top of him, holding him under, but not quite long enough to drown him. No trace can be found of Stratton's house, the only dwelling destroyed in Heppner. It was lately vacated, and, having been built on an unusually low place, floated away with the flood, which probably quickly demolished it.

Absolutely the only communication with Heppner is by foot. Telephone and telegraph wires, with the railroad tracks and bridges, have been entirely destroyed for a radius of 25 miles from the stricken city, and there are no available horses in Heppner. Every horse in this region is either at Heppner tonight or is standing exhausted in its stable, having carried some courier over the muddy and pathless miles that divide Heppner from Heppner.

Sad Ruin Is Wrought.
Court street, at Heppner, on the bank of the stream, is swept clean as a gravel bar from end to end. Not even the foundations of a long line of beautiful residences are left. All the Ayers' homes, and the Matlocks, Wells, Shutt and Kettlers, are as if they had never been. Every business house, except the hotel, Fair store and Oddfellows' building, along the side of the street on which the bank stands, are wrecks, a large building is jammed into the drug store and several other structures are in the middle of the same street. Residences are turned over or torn to pieces. Mud, slime and misery are everywhere.

The water was 15 feet high in Heppner's streets and rose over the new Courthouse wall. It came down Palm Fork, chiefly, but was a torrent on all hillsides. Enormous piles of rock and gravel have been washed down the canyon, five miles up on Butter Creek.

One Hour of Horror.
The flood came almost instantly, and lasted one hour. The people thought it was only a repetition of the cloudburst a few days ago, and were not alarmed until it was too late. Houses were surrounded by raging torrents, which sucked everything movable into their twisting eddies, and escape was impossible.

Many people are sleeping in the Courthouse tonight, and any place they can make a bed. A relief party from The Dalles of 20 Elks, six Elks, five doctors, six trained nurses, and a carload of provisions and additional supplies, is on the way into Heppner from Heppner. The Pendleton rescue party of 20 arrived from Heppner at 5 o'clock, and will lend much needed assistance. Many people are arriving at Heppner. There are no beds, and visitors will be compelled to rough it while they stay. Provisions are not needed, but rather help to bury their dead and clear away the debris. The absence of ice or embalming fluids has necessitated the hurried burial of many bodies, which would otherwise have been preserved for the arrival of relatives.

The accompanying list of dead includes all the bodies buried, a register of which was kept. Three live babies have been found whose parents are lost, and identification has so far been impossible. Families are broken to pieces, the father alone remains, or a wife or son or daughter, and little children left orphans.

Dead Will Number 300.

Ellas Conner, a stockholder of Heppner, returned from Heppner at 2 o'clock this (Tuesday) morning. He left the scene of the disaster at 5 o'clock, and brings the latest news from the scene.

"It is now known," said Mr. Conner, "that at least 275 or 300 people were drowned. One hundred and fifteen corpses have been hastily buried in wooden boxes, and some were merely wrapped in blankets. There were still several wagonloads of dead on their way to the cemetery when I left. Heppner itself has now been pretty well searched, except in piles of debris, where it is thought that numbers of bodies will be found."

"Between Heppner and Heppner," said Mr.

Conner, "there are great piles of debris, but the flood passed so quickly that the roads have not been seriously damaged. The railroad track, however, from Lexington on is badly torn up. It looks strange to see the heavy steel rails bent and twisted like corkscrews, and the heavy timbers splintered like matchwood. In Heppner itself the flood swept a clean path a mile long, and one or two blocks wide through the town, following generally the course of Willow Creek. The people of Heppner seem demoralized by the calamity, and men who have lost their wives, children and their all, go dry-eyed to the work of assistance of others."

BAKER CITY PROMPT WITH AID.

Knights of Pythias Appropriate \$100 for Relief of Sufferers.
BAKER CITY, Or., June 15.—(Special.)—Gaius Lodge, Knights of Pythias, appropriated \$100 for the relief of Heppner sufferers and sent a committee of two members to go and help with the relief work. The committee left on the night train. Other orders will follow this example of the Knights of Pythias.

The awful disaster at Heppner has brought sorrow to a large number of citizens of this city who had relatives and friends in the ill-fated city. This evening's train will carry a large party of anxious people who are going to ascertain the fate of dear ones and render such aid as may be possible.

Henry Blackman, of Heppner, was here today in the interest of the Lewis and Clark Fair when he heard of the disaster. He left on the first train. A part of his family was in Heppner. Undertaker George Hyde also left on tonight's train to assist in caring for the dead.

The storm cloud which destroyed Heppner evidently passed this city early Sunday evening. The most forbidding-looking



PALACE HOTEL, HEPPNER.

cloud ever beheld here passed to the south of this city about 6:30 Sunday evening.

Many people were greatly alarmed, fearing a cloudburst in this vicinity. Only a portion of the storm crossed the range, however, bringing with it the severest windstorm experienced here for years. It shook the houses to their foundations. Through congested in the Presbyterian Church were badly frightened for fear the roof would be carried away. The service was stopped for a few minutes until the fury of the wind had passed. The main storm cloud was traveling very fast when it passed this city, going in a northwesterly direction. It was a very large cloud and as black as ink.

HENRY BLACKMAN IS SAFE.

Ex-Collector Leaves Baker City to Learn the Fate of His Son.
BOISE, Idaho, June 15.—Henry Blackman, ex-Internal Revenue Collector of Oregon, reported among the dead at Heppner, is alive. He talked to Boise relatives today over the telephone from Baker City. He said his family, with the exception of his son, Leo, are in California. He left at once for Heppner, being alarmed for the safety of his son.

"Bill" Cohen, mentioned in the list of dead is probably Phil Cohen, whose wife and children are visiting here from Heppner.

DEATH IN HEPPNER FLOOD

(Continued from First Page.)

be heard on all sides, and relief was not to be attempted. One woman was carried from a treetop late this morning, after the waters had subsided.

George Conner and his wife and Dr. McSwords and John Ayres were sitting on the front lawn enjoying the cool evening and watching the storm on the mountains. Mrs. Conner saw the flood coming and remarked that the party had better get inside. Mr. Ayres and Dr. McSwords laughed at her fears. She and Mr. Conner went inside and up the stairs, where they could get a better view of the flood.

Last Seen of Them Alive.

They left the two gentlemen sitting in the yard. That was the last ever seen of the two men alive. Before Mr. and Mrs. Conner could again look outside the house had been swept from its foundation and was moving down the river on the crest of the flood. Both Mr. Ayres and Dr. McSwords were drowned. Mr. and Mrs. Conner were rescued from the roof of their house three-quarters of a mile down the river Monday morning. Station Agent Kernan and wife were in the depot when the flood came. Mr. Kernan flashed the news to Heppner, then began preparations for seeking a higher location. Mr. Hart was visiting with them. Mr. Hart took charge of the two children and Mr. Kernan assisted his wife. Hart and the two children reached safety, but Mr. Kernan and wife were seen no more.



PALACE HOTEL, HEPPNER.

They were swept away with the rush of waters.

The depot was left standing uninjured. Mr. Bradbury confirmed the report that fully 300 were drowned, but says he does not believe that it will exceed that number, as many are still alive but unrescued.

Mrs. George Wells, whose family perished in the flood at Heppner, arrived in the city this afternoon from Walla Walla, where she had been visiting. She learned of the disaster this afternoon in time to take the train for this city. Her husband and three children were swept away by the flood.

Dead for Two Miles.

J. J. Kelly was interviewed, and says that the dead and debris of the storm were strewn down the river for two miles from the city. Nothing but the wrecks of buildings and crushed, mangled and almost unrecognizable bodies were to be seen everywhere, and on all sides there was destruction. But few buildings were left standing on the flat. The wooden buildings were all swept away, with few exceptions. Bodies dashed by, clinging frantically to pieces of wood, chairs, all classes of furniture and houses. Some of the houses were covered with frightened people, who called for help that could not

be given them. From the base of the hills on either side of the river the town was swept away. Nothing was left but the brick buildings and a few foundations.

On the Trees All Night.

People caught on to trees and hung there all night, some of them but a few hours, only to drop exhausted into the waters below. "We went down the river this morning about a mile," said Mr. Kelly, "to assist in the work of rescue, but could not do much on account of the heavy masses of timber piled on top of the dead bodies. In my opinion the list of dead will reach 300, as nearly every pile of boards and timbers, hides from view one to three bodies. I never witnessed such wholesale destruction in my life and never care to again."

It was reported that the two warehouses containing 2,000,000 pounds of wool had been swept away, but Mr. Bradbury says that the warehouses were not destroyed.

The Morrow County Warehouse was washed from its foundation, but settled to one side and did not go down the river. The other warehouse did not leave its foundation.

Our Boyer arrived from Heppner this evening, and says the town was almost wiped off the map. He is a native of the city and never before in his life had such a calamity threatened the place as at present. Store buildings containing about all the supplies of the city went down with the flood, and many of those who escaped from the doomed houses were with little or no clothing.

GRAPHIC STORY OF HORROR.

Survivor Gives Details of the Disaster.
SPOKANE, Wash., June 15.—A special to the Spokesman-Review from Echo, Or. is:

N. T. Tooker, of the Fairbank-Morse Company, Portland, who was at Heppner when the awful disaster happened last evening by the bursting of an immense cloud, arrived here this afternoon, being the first to bring out the news. He was there when the disaster came, and remained until 8 o'clock this morning. He gives a graphic description of the terrible affair. He said the rushing torrent came at 5:30 last evening when the most of the inhabitants were at their evening meal. All were taken so suddenly that nothing could be done to save those who were caught in the rushing water. Homes, stores and all buildings in the principal portion of the town were torn loose and driven onward, one jam causing the water to pile into another, and then sweep away again, causing more buildings to go. "A low estimate places the dead at 200," said Mr. Tooker. "The town has a population of about 150, but this morning only about one-half of the people of the town could be located. We do not know where they have gone, unless they have gone down the stream. They may have gone to the hills, but this is doubtful. The whole affair was one horribly sickening scene with death and destruction being spread on every side. From the time the flood came until the flood went into the regular channel of the creek flowing through town, it was about two hours."

"It was about 5 o'clock when the storm first started to gather to the west of the city. It was a small dark cloud at first, but it rapidly grew worse, accompanied by heavy wind and vicious lightning. It was undoubtedly the last heavy flash of lightning that caused the water to fall in such an immense body. It struck fairly in the canyon of Willow Creek, six miles above town. There was no warning until the mighty wall of water had reached the town. As it came rushing down the creek bed it tore everything before it, consisting of trees, large boulders, sand and earth. When it reached town the water was piled over 15 feet high as a perpendicular wall, splashing, foaming, leaping and creating a mighty roaring, rushing sound. People did not have time to get from their buildings. Those who were on the streets shouted warning to the people as they rushed to the hills for their lives. They did not dare to turn back or they, too, would have been swept away."

"Fathers left wives and children to perish, as they had not a moment to spare in some cases. Brothers returned to save members of their families, but it was too late, and they were carried to their death while returning. Those who had reached the banks in safety immediately formed themselves into small rescuing parties, and work was at once started in saving those that could be reached. Ropes were the only means that we had. It was useless to attempt to use other means. Those who were in midstream could easily be seen. Their pitiful cries for help could be heard, but nothing could be done. "We could only stand," said Mr. Tooker, "and see them go to their death. The rescuing work was still going on when I came away at 8 o'clock this morning. When I was leaving 50 bodies had been placed in the Heppner bank, where doors had been thrown open, and was used as the morgue. We placed a guard over the bank all night. When we allowed the public in at daybreak the scene was something awful. Women came to identify their little babies, their grown children and their husbands. Fathers came to see their dead wives and children. When the people came in, no control could be kept over them at all. Mothers fainted, wives tore their hair and men cried like little children. Women fainted, at the same time tearing their clothes nearly from their bodies. As it was impossible to keep order all had to be excluded and a committee formed to identify those that it was possible to identify. The worst could not be seen until this morning. One poor woman was found pinned between two heavy timbers. Another woman was found with her little baby in her arms. In some of the houses which had been washed down street and which had not been shattered there were found dead brothers and sisters, some in each other's arms."

"It is estimated that the damage done to property alone was \$300,000. Some of the brick and stone buildings were not torn away, but there were some of them moved from their foundations. The buildings on the high flat were all saved, although water reached some of them to the north of the town, and the goods and all were saved in these. When these merchants opened for business this morning they said work on the relief committee to come and take what goods were wanted. People were coming in from all directions to the assistance of the suffering and dead; they could not come by rail, for nine miles of the track below town was washed away. All wire communications were put out of business."

The dead are being buried as rapidly as they can be identified. They are simply wrapped in clean sheets, placed in a rough pine box and carried away to the burying ground.

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Foresters Start a Fund.

Ten dollars for relief of the Heppner sufferers were voted at a meeting of Multnomah Court, No. 2, Foresters of America, last evening. A committee of three, consisting of Isaac Swett, J. C. Ikeman and Edward Goldsmith, was appointed to visit all the courts in Portland, and to urge them to take similar action. The funds raised will be sent to Grand Treasurer S. Kafka, of Portland, who

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themselves into small rescuing parties, and work was at once started in saving those that could be reached. Ropes were the only means that we had. It was useless to attempt to use other means. Those who were in midstream could easily be seen. Their pitiful cries for help could be heard, but nothing could be done. "We could only stand," said Mr. Tooker, "and see them go to their death. The rescuing work was still going on when I came away at 8 o'clock this morning. When I was leaving 50 bodies had been placed in the Heppner bank, where doors had been thrown open, and was used as the morgue. We placed a guard over the bank all night. When we allowed the public in at daybreak the scene was something awful. Women came to identify their little babies, their grown children and their husbands. Fathers came to see their dead wives and children. When the people came in, no control could be kept over them at all. Mothers fainted, wives tore their hair and men cried like little children. Women fainted, at the same time tearing their clothes nearly from their bodies. As it was impossible to keep order all had to be excluded and a committee formed to identify those that it was possible to identify. The worst could not be seen until this morning. One poor woman was found pinned between two heavy timbers. Another woman was found with her little baby in her arms. In some of the houses which had been washed down street and which had not been shattered there were found dead brothers and sisters, some in each other's arms."

"It is estimated that the damage done to property alone was \$300,000. Some of the brick and stone buildings were not torn away, but there were some of them moved from their foundations. The buildings on the high flat were all saved, although water reached some of them to the north of the town, and the goods and all were saved in these. When these merchants opened for business this morning they said work on the relief committee to come and take what goods were wanted. People were coming in from all directions to the assistance of the suffering and dead; they could not come by rail, for nine miles of the track below town was washed away. All wire communications were put out of business."

The dead are being buried as rapidly as they can be identified. They are simply wrapped in clean sheets, placed in a rough pine box and carried away to the burying ground.

Excitement at Hood River. HOOD RIVER, Or., June 15.—(Special.)—Large numbers of Hood River people left tonight for Heppner to look after friends and relatives lost in the awful catastrophe of last night. There are many grief-stricken families here who fear the worst, but who must wait for fuller details of the terrible affair before the real situation can be known. Hood River is arranging to send aid and sustenance to the suffering at Heppner. At a meeting of the City Council tonight Mayor T. R. Coon appointed Major J. C. Booth chairman of a committee to solicit contributions for the relief of the destitute at Heppner, and accepted the invitation of the O. R. & N. to have the same shipped to the scene of the disaster free of charge.

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