

FIRE FIGHTER DIES DESPITE OPERATION

J. M. Holcomb of Portland Is
First to Lose Life.

EVERY AID IS GIVEN

Companions, With Little Hope of
Saving Victim, Carry Him Six
Miles Over Mountains.

The first fatality from forest fires this season occurred yesterday when J. M. Holcomb of this city died on the operating table at St. Vincent's hospital from injuries received the day before while fighting flames in Columbia county.

Holcomb was patrolling the fire line of the Rock creek fire when a snag from a blazing tree fell on him, fracturing his skull. In a vain attempt to save his life his comrades carried him for six miles over mountain trails and then rushed him to Portland in an ambulance.

Although it was considered a hopeless chance, Holcomb was placed on the operating table at the hospital, after he had struggled through the night in his fight with death. He died at 11 o'clock in the morning.

Holcomb was 22 years old. He was married, the father of a 2-year-old boy. He lived at 1521 Outman street. He has been fighting fire only a few days, having been hired about a fortnight ago as a temporary laborer. The accident occurred half-way between Timber and Vernonia in the Coast mountains. Funeral arrangements for Holcomb are in charge of the Chambers undertaking establishment, 248 Killingsworth avenue.

Fire-fighters in the Coast mountain forests are gradually getting the blazes under control, according to C. C. Scott of the forest fire patrol. Six good-sized fires are raging in privately-owned timber in Clatsop, Columbia and Tillamook counties. Between 350 and 400 men are engaged in fighting them.

In the last two days the wind which had been hindering the men has died down. Mr. Scott said last night, "and the crews are gradually getting the fires under control. The situation is better right now than it has been for some time. A heavy morning fog, prevalent for the last two days, also has helped the fire-fighters greatly."

SITUATION MUCH BETTER

Western Washington Blazes Are Kept in Control.

OLYMPIA, Wash., July 20.—(Special.)—Forest fire conditions in western Washington were much improved as a result of the two cool days with heavy moisture in the atmosphere, State Forester Pape said. None of the big fires has been extinguished, but most of them have been held in check.

Mr. Pape, faced with a new problem caused by the issuance of camping permits to sailors of the Pacific fleet now at Port Angeles, today asked federal officials to stop the issuance of such permits because of the fire dangers.

A new fire 10 miles northwest of Eatonville in Pierce county, burned over 400 acres of green timber yesterday and today.

FIRE IS BEYOND CONTROL

Camp of Mason County Logging Company Is Threatened.

ABERDEEN, Wash., July 20.—(Special.)—The camp of the Mason County Logging company on Gibson creek, a few miles west of Oakville, and a valuable stand of green timber are threatened with destruction today by a forest fire which got out of control yesterday. The entire woods crew of the logging firm has been battling the fire since yesterday with but little success.

The fire which yesterday threatened to destroy the machinery and equipment of the Balch Logging company near Balch was reported cornered. A fire near the Walker Timber company's camp, a few miles south of Humptulips, had spread to considerable proportions.

Patrol Plane Locates Fire.

ROSEBURG, Or., July 20.—(Special.)—The forest patrol plane carrying Supervisor H. Q. Brown, of the Douglas county fire patrol, today succeeded in locating a fire on the coast range which had obscured the observation of the ground forces, whose vision is greatly hindered by the smoky atmosphere. The fire is a small one, and men sent to the scene at once are expected to get it under control immediately.

Fires Break Out in Willowa.

Numerous fires of varying sizes have broken out in the Willowa forest reserve, according to a dispatch which was received by the local offices of the forest service yesterday. Seven are small fires, one is a fair size and another is raging over a large area.

AUTO KILLING PROBED

Bright Lights Blamed for Wreck Fatal to Californian.

PENDLETON, Or., July 20.—(Special.)—Bright lights, undimmed, on a passing car, were held responsible by Jay Saltzman, state traffic inspector, for the wreck on the highway near Barnhart Tuesday night, in which Lewis Zilka, aged 34, farmer of Fresno, Cal., was killed. Mrs. Zilka was pinned under the car for half an hour before she was found by a passing tourist, but her injuries were not serious.

An inspection of the scene of the accident by the traffic officer led to the belief that the victim, who was driving on the edge of the road while blinded by the bright lights of a passing car. The front wheels dug into the soft sand beside the highway and the car turned over. The passing car did not stop.

12 MORE HEROES CITED

List of Oregon Men, Honored for Bravery, Swelled to 232.

SALEM, Or., July 20.—(Special.)—Twelve more names have been added to Oregon's list of heroes, according to information just received from the war department by General

George A. White, adjutant-general of the state. According to the war department communication the additional citations are for gallantry in action in France during the heavy offensive of the American troops along the western front, in the late summer and fall of 1918. The names of those cited are: Lewis L. Armstrong, 488 1/2 Washington street, Portland; Kirby T. Arnold, 1247 South Commercial street, Salem; Ernest R. Jordan, Umapine; John H. Carroll, 1931 Arnold street, Portland; C. R. Moulton, 91 Fourth street, Portland; Elmer Olson, Salem; Paul C. Miller, Corvallis; E. L. Morton, Vale; August M. Grant, 7529 Sixty-fourth avenue Southeast, Portland; James Fox, Moro; Orlando B. Hardy, Lakeview; Chester C. Reed, 5513 Sixty-third street Southeast, Portland.

FIRE TO BE PINCHED OUT

PLAN OF FIGHTING HERMAN CREEK FLAMES CHANGED.

Boy Scout Camp at Wahtum Lake Reported to Be Safe From Blaze Sweeping Forest.

Word was received at the local office of the United States forest service yesterday that an attempt is being made to check the fire at Herman creek through a method known to fire-fighters as "pinching it out."

Boy Scouts at Wahtum lake are absolutely safe. The fire has spread back into the green timber and the fire-fighters have worked to the rear of the blaze and are tapering the rear of the burn down by degrees so that it may be thoroughly checked at the same end. Attacks are being made with fire lines all along the edge. Each line to the south is run more to the middle of the burn, so that at the south end it will be utterly pinched out.

The varying winds in the Columbia gorge are what have been giving the fire-fighters so much trouble. Conditions are better now and the outlook for checking the blaze is much brighter.

Boy Scout officials in charge of the summer camp at Wahtum lake have sent reassuring reports that the boys at the camp are remaining there at absolutely no risk. Scout Executive James E. Brockway left this city Wednesday morning with 29 additional scouts to make the trip into the camp.

JAPANESE HIT BY AUTO

Driver Goes on After Accident and Fails to Report to Police.

A large touring car, whose driver failed to stop, ran into I. Hirose, Japanese hop picker, 16 years old, at Third and Burnside streets, late yesterday afternoon, breaking his left leg. Hirose, who lives at the Neppach rooming house at that corner, was on his way home when the accident occurred.

Witnesses to the accident procured the number and at the record bureau at police headquarters it was found that the car is registered under the name of Joe Canich, proprietor of a soft drink establishment, living at 144 East Second street North. No report had been made of the accident late last night and the police stated that an arrest would occur unless a report was turned in this morning.

FORESTER TOURS COAST

Hope for Successful Reforestation Expressed.

T. S. Woolsey Jr., consulting forester from New Haven, Conn., is making a tour of the Inland Empire, the Rocky Mountain areas and the Pacific coast to see what progress has been made in the west in the last ten years by the forest service. He is studying the general conditions of the forest protection agencies in this part of the country.

Mr. Woolsey thinks that if the forests are not devastated and are reforested gradually, the logged-off parts will be supplanted with saplings and second growth, and by the time the old growth is exhausted the new growth will be good enough to cut.

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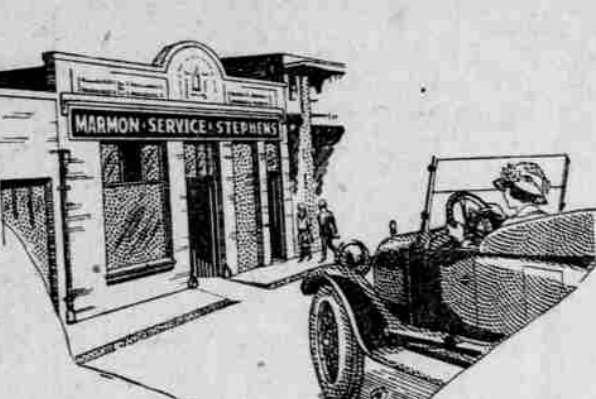
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OREGON HUMANE SOCIETY

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