

WORKMEN TESTIFY BUILDING WAS NOT SAFELY CONSTRUCTED

Several Give Sensational Testimony at Inquest of Frank McKellar.

CORONER'S JURY IGNORES EVIDENCE.

I. S. Smith and J. E. Cayou Makes Statements Regarding Contract.

Sensational evidence concerning the new I. S. Smith building, which collapsed at the corner of Broadway and Washington streets yesterday afternoon killing Frank McKellar, seriously injuring George Miller and causing narrow escapes for a half a dozen other workmen, was given at the inquest over the remains of McKellar last night. The witnesses were mostly men who were employed on the construction of the building and practically all of them testified that the building was not safe owing to not being properly braced and the timbers used being too small for the size of the structure.

The coroner's jury ignored the testimony in their verdict and did not attempt to place any blame for the accident. Their verdict simply was that "Frank McKellar came to his death by the accidental collapse of a building at the corner of Broadway and Washington streets." The members of the coroner's jury were R. M. Wiedner, W. C. Pennock, S. A. Conroy, Messerle, D. A. Curry and J. A. Smith. Justice C. L. Pennock presided at the inquest, Dr. E. M. Mingo, the coroner, being at Coquille. The inquest was held at the Johnson Undertaking parlors.

The men who testified at the inquest were:

L. D. Noah, J. L. Reynolds, W. H. Watson, M. G. Keenan, C. S. Lindgren, J. B. Rust and Dr. E. E. Straw.

Light Joists Used.

According to the testimony of the workmen, only 2x4 joists or studding were used in the construction of the building which was two stories, 75 feet long, 25 feet wide at the base and 28 feet on the second story, an extension of three projecting over the street, about thirteen feet from the ground. The carpenters testified that they did not consider the 2x4 timber sufficiently strong to support a safe two-story building of the size under construction—that they did not believe that even 2x6 joists would be any two strong to make it a safe structure.

Others testified that the first story of the building was not braced crosswise, except at the very ends and there with not very strong lumber. Braces were used lengthwise of the structure.

The gust of wind that is said to have precipitated the collapse was declared to have not been very strong. Some gave their opinion that the breeze must have caught under the three-foot extension and toppled the structure over.

Was Killed Instantly.

J. B. Rust, the partner of Frank McKellar, testified that McKellar was unconscious when he went to his rescue a moment after the collapse. Rust and McKellar, who were to occupy the first story of the building with their plumbing and heating business, and the flats on the second story as their homes, started to work on the plumbing of the building yesterday afternoon. The two were working on the second story. Rust first noticed that the building was going over and shouting to McKellar to drop through to the first floor, jumped down between the cross beams, the floor of the second story near them not having been put in. Rust, landing on the first floor, threw himself under a work bench. McKellar was evidently dazed and didn't get down but was caught between the roof and a cross beam and the side or roof and crushed.

Nearly every rib was broken, and it is possible that his neck or backbone was also broken. He never regained consciousness. Dr. E. E. Straw said that the internal injuries, which resulted in hemorrhages, were sufficient to cause death.

BUILDING TO BE GUARDED

City Council Urged to Pass Ordinance Introduced Year Or More Ago.

It is likely that as a result of yesterday's catastrophe, the Marshfield city council will immediately take up the building ordinance, first considered a year or so ago and designed to prevent the construction of unsafe structures, and pass it.

Mayor E. E. Straw said last night that something ought to be done. He said that the building ordinance, which would have been a safeguard against such catastrophes as occurred yesterday, had been taken up many times when the council had nothing else to do but had always been laid on the table and somehow or other had been recently lost sight of.

Just what the ordinance will provide has not been determined. It is likely to specify the size or kind of material to be used in the construction of buildings of different sizes, certain precautions to be taken during the construction for the protection of the workmen, and also provide for a competent building inspector to see that the ordinance is lived up to.

In order that the expenses of the city will not be too greatly increased by enlarging the list of salaried employees, it has been suggested that the building ordinance provide a graduated list of fees, according to the cost of the building to be constructed, for building permits, the proceeds of which would pay a competent inspector. Other cities have this plan of defraying the expense of a building inspector.

Yesterday Councilman Sacchi discussed the Smith building with men who had noticed it and it was understood to be Mr. Sacchi's intention to see that the city provide some sort of building requirements. The thing in particular that came up at the discussion was the right of property-owners to build out over the sidewalk, as was being done in the Smith case.

Others Had Narrow Escapes.

Half a dozen carpenters, including Mr. Johnson were working on the upper story when the accident occurred. They succeeded in running across the building as it fell north and jumped to the ground clear of the lumber that crushed together. Mr. Johnson severely sprained his leg or ankle when he jumped but did not notice the injury for sometime, the excitement and necessity of helping remove McKellar diverting his mind.

Wife is Prostrated.

Mrs. McKellar is almost prostrated. They had been married less than two years and came to Coos Bay but ten days ago. Her relatives reside in Kansas and the only near relative of her husband is a brother in California with whom communication had not been established last night. Messrs. McKellar and Rust, the latter being a brother of W. J. Rust of Marshfield, were employed by a large plumbing and heating firm doing business in San Francisco and Sacramento. They decided to come to Marshfield, form a partnership and get into business for themselves. They were just completing the arrangements to start their first work when the accident occurred. Mr. McKellar was about twenty-eight years old.

I. S. Smith's Statement.

The building was being erected under contract. I. S. Smith, the owner, this afternoon said:

"The contract for the erection of the building was awarded to Johnson and Cayou. The floor plan was drafted when Cayou took up the matter but he drew up the specifications. The firm furnished me a bond for \$1,950, signed by Masters and McLain, to turn over the building

MRS. GUINNESS LURED MEN TO DEATH

LAPORTE, IND., "WOMAN BLUE-BEARD" SECURED VICTIMS BY MATRIMONIAL ADVERTISEMENTS—ALLEGED ACCOMPLICES ARE UNDER ARREST.

(By Associated Press.)
CHICAGO, May 7.—The following is Mrs. Guinness' "Matrimonial Advertisement" with which her victims were lured death. "Personal—Comely widow who owns a large farm in one of the finest districts in LaPorte county, Ind., desires to make the acquaintance of a gentleman, equally well provided, with a view of joining fortunes. No replies by letter will be considered unless sender is willing to follow his answer with a personal visit."

(By Associated Press.)

LAPORTE, Ind., May 7.—Additional light on the methods of the Guinness woman and the persons who are supposed to have fallen victims to her lust for gold were shed today by Asa K. Helgeln, a brother of Andrew Helgeln, Mansfield, S. D., whose dismembered corpse was among the nine found on the farm. Helgeln told the coroner that not only had his brother been in communication with the woman, but she had written to him after Andrew had disappeared in an attempt to induce him (Asa) to visit this city. She advised him to sell his brother's stock and come to LaPorte, "and we will hunt for your brother together."

"The letters were written in Norwegian and only partially translated. Others Under Arrest.

Several circumstances indicating that Roy Lampere, accused of first degree murder in connection with the incineration of Mrs. Guinness and children, had some knowledge of her crimes, have developed. Bessie Conkling, a young woman residing in Michigan City, and a friend of Lampere, has been arrested, and is being held awaiting the action of the grand jury. It is alleged that she stated to Sheriff Smulzer that Lampere told her that Mrs. Guinness "had to be good to him as he knew enough to send her to the gallows."

It was discovered this afternoon that the shed on the Guinness farm in which the bodies of the victims were kept had been broken into and the bodies seriously disturbed.

No trace of Mrs. Guinness has been found although it is still believed that she is in hiding in Chicago.

complete, free from all liens and incumbrances.

"I regret the matter very much. While I am legally freed from any loss in the matter, I expect to share some of it if the builders adjust it squarely as they undoubtedly will."

Mr. Johnson is a carpenter and was at work on the building. Mr. Cayou is an architect and is at Coquille where he is supervising the erection of a new bank building.

Mr. Cayou's Version.

Mr. J. E. Cayou today made the following statement:

"I had nothing to do with the planning of Mr. Smith's building. It was planned and overseen by Mr. Smith, personally. The specifications were drafted according to his dictation, he determining the material to be used. I have never been on the building since it was under construction. As far as contracting goes, I do not make it a specialty. In this instance, I became interested in Mr. Johnson as a friend and as he was out of employment and wanted to figure on some work and not being able to personally carry the contract, I agreed to go in with him. The construction was left entirely to Mr. Johnson, he making such alterations as Mr. Smith directed or requested from time to time."

OTHER VICTIMS BETTER.

Injuries of Contractor Johnson and Geo. Miller Not Serious.

It was stated today that George Miller, the carpenter, who was injured in the collapse of the Smith building yesterday was residing easier. He did not sustain any broken bones but was badly bruised and almost prostrated by the shock.

Contractor Johnson's injuries were mostly to his arm. The injuries are not regarded as serious.

LOOKS DARK FOR MARTIN

Important Evidence Disclosed In Portland's Mysterious Murder Case.

(By Associated Press.)

PORTLAND, May 7.—What is believed to be the "missing link" in the chain of circumstantial evidence in the case against E. H. Martin, under arrest in connection with the murder of Nathan Wolf, the pawnbroker, Friday evening, has been supplied by the testimony of A. W. Field, watchmaker in the employ of Wolf, who has positively identified Martin as the man whom he saw talking with Wolf at 5:30 o'clock on the afternoon of the murder and again later in the evening. It was decided today to disinter the body of Wolf for the purpose of examining the finger-nails and if find possible traces of the skin of the murderer under the finger nails of the dead man. Martin's neck and hands were severely scratched. The police believe the scratches are the result of his encounter with Wolf. Martin claims that he was scratched by a cat.

ORCHARD WILL HAVE HEARING

Gov. Gooding Postpones Execution Until July 2d, That Pardon Board May Act.

(By Associated Press.)

BOISE, Ida., May 7.—Governor Gooding late yesterday relieved Harry Orchard until July 2d. Orchard was under sentence to be hung Friday for the murder of Governor Steunenberg. The reprieve is the outgrowth of the legality of the Board of Pardons acting on new matters at the pending session.

Frank Wyman, Orchard's attorney, petitioned for a reprieve as the board which had been called to meet was advised that the session could not be held. Gooding assured Wyman that Orchard would not be hung until the Board of Pardons had heard his case.

NO SMALL POX AT NORTH BEND

Dr. Gale Denies Rumors That Contagion There is of Serious Nature.

Dr. Gale decided not to put up any officer, today emphatically denied the reports that the contagion there was small pox. He said that he had heard the report but that it was absolutely untrue.

"The ailment is known as impetigo and is a contagious skin disease," said Dr. Gale today. "Isolated cases of it are not infrequently encountered and it is rare that it assumes the proportions of an epidemic like it has in North Bend now. It is not a critical ailment, merely being bothersome. It doesn't usually last very long. We hope to have it checked in a few days. The school rooms have been thoroughly ventilated and it is expected that school will be resumed Monday morning."

Superintendent Raab is one of the victims of the disease.

Dr. Gale decided to put up any quarantine signs on account of the disease, leaving it to the people themselves to exercise the proper precautions.

EXCURSION to Bandon Sunday, May 10th. Leave Marshfield at 8 o'clock a. m., return 8 o'clock p. m. Tickets, \$1.50.

SAN FRANCISCO'S PATRIOTIC GREETING OF THE FLEET

MANY BURNED ALIVE TODAY

At Least Four Dead and Twelve Injured in Incendiary Blaze in New York.

(By Associated Press.)

NEW YORK, May 7.—Four were killed and twelve injured in a fire believed to have been incendiary and which practically destroyed a five-story tenement at 101 Orchard street early today. The fire was discovered by a policeman when the flames began shooting through the windows of the lower part of the house. With the assistance of a number of policemen, nearly every one in the house were aroused, but the fire escapes became choked with the frightened tenants. The police rescued a number of children before the firemen arrived to put up ladders. More than 100 were taken down by the firemen. A number were caught inside and cremated alive.

MRS. A. P. OWEN, PIONEER, DEAD

One of the Earliest Residents of Southwestern Oregon Succumbs.

Mrs. Martha E. Owen, wife of A. P. Owen, and one of the best known pioneers of Coos Bay, died at her home on Fourth street, near "B," after a lingering illness of four months. The daughter of Captain and Mrs. Jackson of Empire City, her family had the distinction as pioneers of having the first birth, marriage and death among the white settlers on Coos Bay.

Mrs. Owen was born at Empire City, July 3, 1858, and resided there until her marriage to A. P. Owen, on February 15, 1877. Soon after their marriage, they moved to Marshfield where they have resided almost continuously since that time.

Two children preceded her in death. She is survived by her husband, A. P. Owen and several brothers and a sister. The brothers are George Jackson of Empire City, Charles Jackson of Marshfield, Andrew Jackson of Montesano, Wash.; Wm. Noble and Lyman H. Noble of Marshfield, and the sister is Mrs. Emma Saunders of Empire City. Her father, Captain Jackson, died about two years ago and her mother about a year ago.

The funeral services will be held from the Presbyterian church in Marshfield Friday afternoon, May 8, at 2 o'clock, the Rev. H. H. Brown officiating.

STOLEN RIDE MAYBE FATAL

Auto Drops 75 Feet Into Bay At Seattle and Four Occupants May Die.

(By Associated Press.)

SEATTLE, Wash., May 7.—An automobile, running fifty miles per hour, dashed through the unprotected railings at Fourth and Andover streets late at night and alighted on a raft of logs seventy-five feet below in Elliott Bay with two girls and two young men.

The two girls, Hazel Ross and Alice Teator, were fatally injured. The men, Edgar C. Bennett, 22, and Henry C. Hibbard, 23, were seriously hurt. Bennett stole the automobile from his father's garage for a lark.

Bay City is an Undulating Sea of Color in Honor of Ships.

A WONDERFUL DAY, CLEAR AND BEAUTIFUL.

Fifteen Thousand Participate in Great Naval and Military Parade.

(By Associated Press.)

SAN FRANCISCO, May 7.—The great naval, military and civic parade constituting the chief feature of today's celebration of the arrival of the Atlantic fleet, started from the foot of Market street on its long march through the leading business sections of the city shortly after nine o'clock this morning. About fifteen thousand were in line, 8,500 being marines and sailors from the vessels in the bay, a large force of regular troops from the Presidio, the marine corps, naval militia, National Guard of California, veterans of the rebellion and Spanish wars, California pioneers and other various semi-military organizations and officials and prominent citizens in carriages made up the rest of the procession. Secretary of the Navy Metcalf, Gov. Gillett and staff of California, Gov. Sheldon of Nebraska, Mayor Taylor of San Francisco, Rear Admiral Evans and staff rode in carriages. The Salt Lake battalion high school cadets acted as a special escort to Admiral Evans. Hundreds of thousands of people lined the route of the parade and when the people caught sight of Admiral Evans, the cheering and waving of flags and handkerchiefs was continuous.

The sailors and marines of the warships were enthusiastically greeted all along the line. The spectacle of hundreds of thousands of flags in the hands of the spectators, presenting an undulating sea of color making it a wonderful and never before forgotten day, clear and beautiful.

Ask Pacific Fleet.

The first of the functions connected with the coming of the Atlantic fleet was a breakfast given in honor of the Secretary of Navy, Victor H. Metcalf. About fifty guests gathered in the red room of the St. Francis hotel, including Secretary Metcalf, the governors of several States, the executive and reception committees and the California Promotion Committee. Governor Sheldon of Nebraska, presented Mr. Metcalf a monster petition signed by officials of commercial organizations of Washington, Oregon, California, Idaho, Utah, Nevada, Arizona, Alaska, Hawaii and Philippines representing the sentiment of over 200,000 members asking the permanent establishment in Pacific waters of a fleet of twelve battleships.

TO ALL members of Coos Tribe and Sacajawea Council, you are requested to meet at Red Men Wigwam Thursday, May 7th. Joint meeting Corn and Venison. Wives and husbands of members are invited.

HOLD HOBOS FOR MURDER

Five Arrested at North Yakima On Charge of Throwing Brakeman From Train.

(By Associated Press.)

NORTH YAKIMA, Wash., May 7.—While attempting to eject five hoboes from a baggage car on a Northern Pacific train, John Pryor, a brakeman, is alleged to have been thrown from the car by hoboes between Connell and Hatfield and was killed. The tramps were arrested and sent to Pasco. They declare that Pryor fell from the train by accident.

VOTE for N. C. Medley, Republican candidate for County Assessor.