

EXTRA!

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# Coos Bay Times

MARSHFIELD, OREGON, SUNDAY MORNING, JANUARY 21, 1912.

## SIX MEN ARE LOST WHEN LAUNCH TURNS TURTLE ON COOS BAY BAR

### North Star No. One is Carried Out to Sea and Capsized, When Engine Breaks Down Below Empire.

JOE YONKER, IRA ALBEE, WM. BRAINARD, TOM FERRI AND FRANK TANNER AND UNKNOWN MAN DROWNED LAST NIGHT—CRAFT SMASHED UP ON JETTY.

Swept out onto the Coos Bay bar a strong ebb tide after the engine of the launch North Star No. 1 had broken down in the lower bay, six men lost their lives when a breaker capsized the boat late yesterday afternoon. All of the occupants of the launch were lost. They are:

JOE YONKERS, owner and captain of the North Star No. 1.  
TOM FERRI, South Inlet rancher.  
IRA ALBEE, ferryman at South Inlet.  
WM. BRAINARD, a South Inlet rancher.  
FRANK TANNER of South Inlet.  
UNKNOWN MAN, evidently a stranger. Several at Empire saw him but none knew him.

Mr. Anderson, a member of the life saving crew, was washed out to sea but was rescued by the others.

At first, it was reported that seven were lost but this is presumed to have originated from the supposition that Master Mechanic Hayworth of the Smith-Powers Logging company was aboard the craft. However, Mr. Hayworth instead of taking the North Star No. 1 to the Smith-Powers Logging Camp where he was ordered to superintend repairs walked down and thus escaped the dire fate which the occupants of the ill-fated launch met. Hayworth's family lives in Marshfield and he was located to be safely at the South Slough camp last evening. There was much anxiety about him. The North Star No. 1 left here yesterday afternoon. Besides the drowned, a number of Empire people, including the Misses Wickham, left here on her. She made the trip to Empire without trouble and was part of the passengers left her. Soon after leaving Empire, according to reports last evening it was noted that the engine was "bucking." The ebb tide was strong, one of the strongest of the year. The North Star was caught in the strong current and was swept out to sea.

Whether Capt. Yonkers had any hours aboard is a mooted question any rate, it is doubtful if a small motor would have held against the strong ebb and it is presumed that

each instant, Capt. Yonkers expected to regain the use of his engine. Long years of familiarity with the sea and the bar had probably eliminated fear of the breakers from him.

The lookout at the life saving station caught sight of the North Star as she was being swept out on the bar. An instant later, he saw a big sea strike her and the little craft which had been tossing like a cork on the smaller seas was caught by it.

Under its terrific force, she either turned turtle or was swamped.

The life saving crew quickly responded but the tragedy of the North Star No. 1 was too quickly enacted for them to be of service. The sea had claimed the occupants of the North Star before the hand of man could intervene.

It was rumored that Capt. Britt or a member of the life saving crew had been lost in the effort to go to the rescue of the North Star but this was erroneous.

All except Ferri, who was a young man, leave large families.

A son of Ira Albee says that while lighting the harbor lights at Charleston he saw the North Star just before the disaster and is confident that all jumped over board and tried to swim ashore. Mrs. Yonkers viewed the accident from afar through a glass and says that she saw them throw out the anchor but that it would not hold them.

When dawn broke this morning, the North Star, upside down, was seen washing up on the beach at Split. She was badly broken up on the rocks near the end of the jetty.

Joe Yonker, the owner and master of the North Star, was one of the best known boatmen on the Bay. For years a member of the Coos Bay life saving crew and later connected with navigation on the Bay, he was known to all who traveled these waters. He was a member of the life saving crew about twenty years ago, about the time of the wreck of the Emily, and was in charge of the station at the time of the Arago disaster, sixteen years ago last September.

He served under Capt. Wilcox who died at the home of R. J. Coke in North Bend yesterday. While in Marshfield yesterday, he expressed a desire to attend the funeral of his old captain, whom he so highly regarded, which is to be held at the Dora cemetery this afternoon. Perhaps it was this desire or possibly it was one of those strange and mysterious premonitions that sometimes come to man that led him to express the desire, according to a re-

port in circulation here last night, not to make yesterday afternoon's trip to South Inlet.

About two years ago, Yonkers met with a mishap in the lower bay, his boat swamping. Then, his ability in the sea and surf, saved him, swimming ashore in water so rough that an ordinary small craft could not have remained afloat in it.

Wm Brainard is also well known here and leaves a wife and several children. A brother, Roy Brainard lives in North Bend and another brother, Rube Brainard, has been at the Bowron and Noble ranches at Ten Mile. A sister, now married in Portland and is well remembered here as Miss Edna Brainard. She was a graduate of the Marshfield schools and for quite a while was cashier at the Pioneer-Hardware Company. Tanner was also a married man. Neither he nor Ferri were so well-known here as the others.

Ira Albee has been operating the South Inlet ferry near Charleston for a long time. He has a number of relatives on the Bay, a brother being employed at the C. A. Smith mill.

Owing to the darkness and fog that settled over the bay and bar soon after the accident, but little could be done. Late last evening, it was reported that the North Star, upside down had washed up on the jetty.

As an indication of how strong the ebb tide, which swept the launch to disaster, was is shown by the fact that at North Bend the current was running so swift that the Noble floating pile-driver could not be anchored sufficiently to permit it to work.

The life saving crew kept watch on the beach all night in hopes that possibly some of the occupants might miraculously escape or at any rate that their bodies might be cast up by the sea and be recovered.

#### JESS DAY WINS FROM JACK DUARTE

At the end of a twenty-round go, Jess Day was given the decision over Jack Duarte of Oakland, Cal., at the Marshfield Skating Rink last night. C. A. Howard was the referee. The bout is said to have been one of the best that has been pulled off here in a long time, Day coming back with the vigor and class that won him renown when he first appeared on the Bay. Early in the go, he injured his right hand so badly that he could use it only for defense but his left was effective in reaching Duarte's nose throughout the bout. There was a fair crowd present.