SALEM TRAGEDY IN 1883

AN ASTORIA MAN WHO FIGURED IN IT.

Killed Three Prisoners Outright, Wounded Two Others, One of Them Mortally.

The killing of three of the guards at the Salem penitentiary, and the escape of the two desperate prisoners, Tracy and Merrill, yesterday recalls the tragedy of July 3, 1883. The guard on that occasion, who did desperate work and prevented five of the 14 who attempted to escape from escaping, lives in this city. Single-handed he killed four of the desperate men and wounded another so that he was unable to get away. Nine, however, made their escape, but were all landed back in prison in less than 30 days, except two, one of whom escaped and has never been recaptured, and another who refused to surrender and was killed while resisting arrest.

An Astorian reporter called on Mr. Gilford Stillwell, of this city yesterday, who is now working at a local livery stable, but who at that time made a most remarkable record for his cool-headed bravery and remarkable marksmanship. He did not like to talk about himself but discussed the present case freely and gave his opinion about the escape, and later developments show that he was about right. He said that if the inside guards were killed it was done with bars of iron or other objects, and that if the wall guards were killed they were shot. At that time the news had not reached Astoria of the manner of the killing.

Mr. Stillwell has had a great deal of experience in guarding prisoners. He guarded prisoners at San Quentin prison for a long time and was twice on the force at Salem. His first service at Salem lasted 14 months and the next time, he was there three and one-half years. It was while he was there the last time that the terrible tragedy occurred.

Fourteen of the desperate men planned the escape, and had it not been for the coolnss and bravry and splendid marksmanship of Mr. Stillwell they would all have carried out their purpose. But five remained behind, three dead in their tracks, another mortally wounded, who died soon afterwards and another whose leg had to be amputated. Dr. Alfred Kinney, of this city, performed the surgical operation on the wounded prisoners. While Mr. Stillwell did not care to talk further than that the men were killed with a Marlin rifle, and that it was private property, the state having furnished shotguns and Winchester rifles. Dr. Kinney is familiar with the facts and stated them as he remembered them. Mr. Stillwell did state, however, in regard to the delivery yesterday that he thought some prisoner who had served out his term had been the means of getting the rifles into hte prison in some manner and that these had been kept there for some time. They are called "a plant" by the prisoners. He said also that almost all prison deliveries take place on Tuesday. He said that the prisoners planed the escape on Sunday, study it over Monday and carry it into execution on Tuesday.

Speaking of the 1883 delivery which took place on July 3, Dr. Alfred Kinney said yesterday that tthe plan used by the prisoners was ordinarily a safe one. They seized the superintendent of the prison and drew a knife on him and held it over him, stating to the guards that if they shot they would kill the superintendent ,holding it near his throat. The superintendent shouted to the guards not to shoot. But as the 14 prisoners clustered about the superintendent and passed under the wall where Stillwell was standing he fired from above killing two of the prisoners in their tracks. They then escaped to cover just behind a brick wall, still holding on to the superintendent. He began firing in line with the guard, placing three bullets on top of each other in the wall at a distance of 30 yards and following itup with the fourth shot the bullet crushed through the opening made by the other bullets and passed through the shoulders of the prisoner, killing him. The 10 remaining prisoners then scattered and made a break for liberty. One was shot through the arm before they reached a cluster of trees and here they dodged among the trees, but when over 300 yards away another showed himself and Stillwell wounded him mortally and he afterwards died.

The prisoners were gradually captured until as above stated all but one was captured, another being killed in the interim.

Stillwell looks to be about 40 years old, has sandy hair and mustache, is a hard-working man and very pleasant in manner.

MAYFLOWER RECOMMISSIONED.

NEW YOKK, JuneS.—Rear-Admiral Baker, commandant of the Brooklyn navy ward, has received orders from Washington to place the converted cruised Mayflower in commission within two weeks. It is understood that this vessel, formerly the yacht of Mrs. Ogden Boelet, will be used by President Roosevelt as a dispatch boat. He will probably witness the autum maneuvers of the army and navy off the coast of Long Island from the deck of the Mayflower .

The yacht saw service in the Spanish war and was then fitted up for a dispatch boat for Governor Allen of Porto Rico. When he resigned the Mayflower was sent to the Brooklyn navy yards.

PROVED HIS COWARDICE.

NEW YORK, June 9.—For telling Noah Parker, 22 years of age, that he lacked the courage to shoot a fly, Jas. Crane, aged 29, has been shot and killed in a Brooklyn saloon. The bullet entered the man's heart, killing him instantly. When he saw his victim fall, Parker became excited and fired four other shots at the persons in the saloon. None of the bullets took effect, however. Parker then hurried to his home and later surrendered to the police. Parker, who is a negro, came from Kentucky. An argument over harse racing brought about the banter to shoot which caused Crane's death.

SINGULAR CASE.

PADUCAH, Ky., June 9.—Imprisoned in a wooden cage to prevent him doing himself or anyone else bodily harm, J. W. Pike of Ohio county, Ky., with his wife and six children in a covered wagon are traveling to the Choctaw Nation. Pike received a wound through the head in the Civil war that rendered him liable to violent convulsions and during these spells he is dangerous. Seven years ago he went blind. They expect to reach the Indian Territory next fall.

RAINIER SHOWS ACTIVTY.

TACOMA, June 9.—Many persons in Tacoma today saw two columns of steam rising from the apex of Mount Tacoma. The question of the melting of the snow by the heat of the sun, the lifting and driving of the snow from the summit by the wind, and esveral other possible explaations of the phenomena were discussed, but none of them answered or explained what they saw.

DROUTH IN HONG KONG.

SAN FRANCISCO, June 9.—The Pacific Mail steamship City of Peking, which arrived last night from the Orient, brings the news of a water famine in Hong Kong. The wells of the city they run dry, and in order to supply the island with water, tugs were kept running between the city and the mainland. The officers of the Peking state that the drouth effected the Chinese mostly at the time the vessel left. Before every public watering place natives stood waiting a chance to fill their buckets. In one place in the busiest part of Hong Kong there were more than a thousand coolies in line waiting to get water for their perishing families.

ANOTHER CHICAGO FIRE

THIRTEEN KILLED AND THIRTY INJURED.

Gasoline Plant Blamed and Several Arrests Made by Police.

CHICAGO, June 9.—Twelve men and one woman were killed and about 30 persons injured in fire which this afternoon destroyed the sanitarium connected with St. Luke's Society at Wabash avenue and 21st street. The society occupied a building which was long known as the Hotel Woodruff, and for a brief period as the Hotel Lancaster. The greater portion of the patients received in the institution were those seeking cure from drink habit and those who were addicted to the use of drugs.

When the fire broke out there were on the fifth floor a number of patients suffering from delirium tremens and some who were deranged by drugs. Some of these were strapped to their beds and it was found impossible to save them, so rapidly did the fire spread through the building. The list of dead so far as known follows:

S. J. NEWELL.
WILLIAM KENT, alderman of the Fourth ward, Chicago.
MICHAEL LUBY.
CARL A. CARLSON.
JOSEPH HARRINGTON.
SAMUEL DALZELL.
DR. J. STANTON.
J. B. BISHOP, of St. Louis.
GEORGE A. RIBBEBECK, of Hillside, Mich.
G. S. SCOTT, Laverge, Illinois.
JOHN B. KNAPPMAN.
MRS. B. M. BAUMANN.
B. H. BOYD, 78 years old, member of the medical staff of the institution.

The seriously injured:

A. W. Wattels.
Mrs. Amelia Wilson,
Mrs. McMannis.
Mrs. B. H. Bowman.
F. J. Suit.

The fire criginated in the basement of the building and spread rapidly to the upper stories of the building through the elevator shaft. Before the occupants of the building could be warned, flames had been carried to the roof and had eaten through it and were leaping high in the air. As the fire ran through the building, patients sprang from their beds, and before they could be prevented several had jumped from windows to the pavement.

The police have arrested William Lalaham, an engineer; Lee Siemour, fireman of the building, and J. P. Nagel ,inventor of the gasoline plant in use in the institution; O. E. Miller, presidet of the institution, and William Sterner, engineer of the building. The police have the idea that the fire originated from mismanagement of the gasoline plant.

Officials gave out the following list of missing; it is not known that they are dead, but neither their friends nor the police have been able to locate them, and it is known that they were in the building when the fire broke out:

M. J. Cahill, William Eggleston, Morris B. Loucks, George Harrigan, Chas. Migrail, Malcolm Morris, Thomas Ryan.

MORE FIRE VICTIMS.

SARATOGA, N. Y., June 9.—Fire early today destroyed the Arcade, Citizens National Bank block and Shackelford building, and caused the loss of five lives. The dead are.

MRS. ELIZABETH M. MABEC.
MRS. SARAH OWENS.
DAVID HOWLAND.
MRS. DAVID HOWLAND.
MRS. FARRINGTON.

The property loss is $300,000.

SHOCKED TO DEATH.

NEW YORK, June 9.—Mrs. J. Feeley, of Hoboken, saw a child drop through the air from a window above. Believeing it was her son, she screamed his name in heartbroken accents and fell in a faint. She died a few moments later. Mrs. Feeley had been ill for several weeks and was out of her bed for the first time when she received the shock that caused her death. The boy who fell to the street was not severely hurt.

HUNTER ACCIDENTLY KILLED.

SEATTLE, June 8.—Th body of John Pirie, a rancher of Avondale, was found in the woods near his home yesterday with a bullet from a rifle in his head. He had been missing from home since last Monday, having started for a hunt. Searchers have been out since Tuesday. Relatives believe the killing to have been accidental. Poirie was 52 years old.

ADVERTISED LETTERS.

The following letters remain uncalled for at the Astoria postoffice June 9, 902.

Bakka, Lesie	Iverson, Alex.
Barret, C. A. & Co.	Kuego, N. B.,
Cornell, A., (3	Kjoerbye, Claus P.
Curtis, Miss Iva.,	Learned, Mrs. A. F.
Chong, John,	Matheson, M.,
Densmore, A.,	Madison, F. R.,
Duniway, Mrs. Willi	Micheloni, Guiseppi
Elwell, G. W.,	Morton, M. N.,
Eller, J.,	Mordgan, Mrs. Caro
Erickson, Mrs. Sofia.	Olsen, Andrew,
Ferguson, G. P.,	Patte, Ernest,
Gehus, Antti,	Poster, H.,
Grooman, Emil,	Peterson, O.,
Holzhay, G.,	Rollins, Mrs. Ella,
Hills, J. A.,	Rosenstock, . I.,
Heward, Dr. J. W.,	Strickler, H. W.,
Hopfield, Mrs. Magg	Tokola, A.,
Hunt, Chas. P.,	Thorburn, J. M.,
Jacobson, C.,	Universal Vitaline Co
Johnson, Mrs. R. F.,	

FOREIGN.

Isakson, Hickton, Lung, Gust,
Slottie, Mrs. Herman,