

BLAMES ASSASSIN FOR EXPLOSION AT ESTACADA PLANT

William Pittman, Proprietor of Murderous Engine, Believes Someone Emptied Boiler; Death List Now Seven.

"I sincerely believe that the explosion of our donkey engine, which resulted in the death of my brother and six others, this morning, was the result of a dastardly plot to do us damage, for when I left the engine last night it was in perfect condition and the boilers contained plenty of water. I am going to try to prove it and if I can, I'll avenge the death of my brother and our workmen."

This statement was made yesterday afternoon by William Pittman, brother of James Pittman, who was killed at River mill early yesterday morning, when a donkey engine used by the Pittman Bros. in hauling logs from the Clackamas river to the mill, exploded with such force that all the crew of eight men, with one exception, was killed and the 3000-pound boiler hurled into the air, alighting 300 yards from the site of the explosion, after knocking off tops of trees in its flight.

That other bodies may be found in the woods in the vicinity of the explosion, is the belief of employees of the mill, a possibility strengthened by the fact that the last of the victims found yesterday afternoon was not located for five hours after the explosion and for the additional reason that so far it has been impossible to check up the list of men for James Pittman, who was killed, was timekeeper on their work and his books had not been posted when the explosion occurred.

Three Had Just Reported.

Three of the men who were killed appeared on the work for the first time yesterday morning. The one man who is able to tell any of the details of the accident is Hjalmer Nuquist, who reported this morning to take the position of fireman. He had not started to work when the explosion happened, and the men who were standing beside him were torn to shreds while his injuries are only minor. He was thrown into the air and when he recovered was almost strangled by the water in which he had been lying.

The one unidentified man died at the Good Samaritan hospital at 6:30 o'clock last night. He was not able to give his name. His tongue was split, his jaw broken and his lower lip torn off. Nuquist is unable to explain the cause of the accident. He states that when he reported for work the fire was burning brightly and Pittman was working about the machinery. The last he knew, Pittman was at the water gauge, when he noticed that there was no water in the boiler, and the next minute the explosion took place, the surrounding country came, and he knew no more until he realized that he was strangling.

Cold Water Into Empty Boiler.

Beyond doubt, the accident occurred through the injection of cold water into the empty boiler. According to William Pittman's version, the water was let out some time last night by one of the crew, for the boiler had never previously given any trouble, and it was in good shape last night.

James Pittman, member of Pittman contracting firm; 34 years old; resided at Boring; survived by three brothers, William, John and Frank, and two sisters, Mrs. L. H. Harris of Gaston and Mrs. Charles Palmer of Boring. The I. O. O. F. will take care of the body. Funeral at Sandy tomorrow.

Richard White, 36 years old; lived at Sandy; the I. O. O. F. will take charge of remains; funeral will be at Sandy tomorrow.

M. A. Kronenberger, 27 years of age; home at Black Mt. Minn.; was Odd Fellow and Mason; had worked four days for Pittman Brothers.

J. C. Fisher, 38 years old; lived with parents in Sellwood.

E. W. Smith, 18 years old, while it is believed he had relatives in Portland.

George Watson, 28 years old; nothing known of relatives, as he took new position yesterday morning.

Unidentified man, died at Good Samaritan hospital at 6:30 o'clock last night; about 35 years old.

Two Minutes More—Safety.

The explosion occurred while the crew was awaiting the 7 o'clock whistle, which never blew. In 2 minutes more all but the fireman, engineer and whistle boy would have been out of danger.

Two narrow escapes were experienced by Ray Hamilton and John Clarkson, both of whom would have been at the side of the ill-fated engine had it not been that their lunches, which are always prepared for them, were late in being put up. For that reason they were a few hundred feet distant when the end came.

Parts of clothing, hats, two watches, knives and dinner buckets were found several hundred feet from the engine.

The bodies of the dead men were frightfully mangled. Legs and arms were torn from the bodies and two men were completely dismembered. Robert Watson reached the River mill hospital alive, but died immediately on being taken into the emergency room.

Doctor Happens to Be Near.

As soon as the report of the accident was heard, Dr. E. F. James, who is located at the works where the Portland Railway, Light & Power company is installing the new dam, was called to attend the injured. After dressing Nuquist's wounds, he started to Portland on a special train made up of an electric engine and a caboose with the one unidentified man. He was met at a station midway between Portland and Estacada where Dr. Norden relieved him of his charge.

As soon as word of the accident reached Portland, Claim Agent Boynton of the Portland Railway, Light & Power company, which controls the mills where the accident happened, prepared a special car, and coffins were sent.

Coroner Fox of Oregon City was called to attend to the details and he arrived on the scene at 3:30 o'clock. An inquest was held there to determine the cause for the explosion.

The coroner's jury this afternoon returned a verdict, holding: "The deceased came to their death by an explosion caused by low water and no safety valve."

The inquiry as to the cause of the explosion disclosed that there was no safety valve on the engine and that William Pittman, one of the Pittman Bros., was on his way to Portland to purchase a safety valve when the explosion occurred.

The investigation has also disclosed

VELASQUEZ PAINTING WORTH HALF A MILLION



A photograph of Velasquez's famous painting of Philip IV of Spain, believed to have been lost, but recently reported in the possession of Charles R. Williams, who arrived in New York to add the masterpiece to the art collection of J. Pierpont Morgan, the multi-millionaire. The painting is said to be worth nearly a half million dollars. The Velasquez portrait of Philip IV, which was painted at Fraga in 1644, was discovered last November in the castle of Schwarzsau, Austria, owned by Prince Elias of Bourbon-Parma. For a long time it had been believed that the portrait was in the Dulwich gallery in England, but some months ago Senor Bureute, the most famous expert on the works of Velasquez, decided that the one found in Austria is the original. Williams was obliged to pay an extra duty of \$2000 when it was discovered that he had the portrait in his possession.

that Hjalmer Nuquist, who started the fire in the boiler yesterday morning, has never before been employed on a steam engine and knew little of its operation.

Nuquist in a sworn statement today claimed that he accepted the position of fireman Friday night when told that the job was the only position open and he claimed that he only took the place because he had been out of work so long that he was destitute and hungry and wanted the first thing he could find.

TELEPHONE RATES TOO HIGH, ALLEGE FARMERS

(Special Dispatch to The Journal.) Eugene, Or., March 4.—At a meeting of the users of the farmers' telephone line in Lane county held here this afternoon it was voted to sever connections with the Pacific States company on account of alleged excessive charges and to establish an independent central station in Eugene. A committee consisting of G. McPherson of Springfield, Ole Holderson and C. E. Swarts of Eugene, was appointed to interview the business men of Eugene in regard to supporting the new switchboard. The Farmers' company owns lines running into Eugene and is charged for switching privileges through the central station of the Pacific company. The company has been raising rates lately, the farmers declaring that they cannot afford to pay under the new rate.

SECRET TRIAL PLANNED FOR SLAYER OF PRINCESS

(United Press Leased Wire.) Rome, March 4.—Surgeons today extracted the bullet from the skull of Lieutenant Paterno, who shot himself after having killed Countess Cluila di Trigona in a local hotel, and his recovery is practically assured.

To prevent details of the scandal reaching the public, efforts will be made to have Paterno's trial held behind closed doors.

French Premier May Lecture.

(United Press Leased Wire.) Paris, March 4.—Former Premier Aristide Briand, who resigned office this week, was today offered \$60,000 for 75 lectures in Europe and in the United States and South America. He probably will accept.



Some Special Piano Bargains

We have a number of slightly used pianos taken in exchange for player pianos that we want to close out at once. There are some of the best known makes among the lot and the prices will range from \$165 up. They are all in first class condition and can be bought on very easy terms. Come in tomorrow and look them over. We also have some specials in player pianos. One at \$400 and another at \$450, at \$10 per month. They play both 88 and 65 note music. Don't overlook these.

Pianos for rent. Fine piano tuning.

Hovenden Piano Company

106 Fifth Street, next to Perkins Hotel.

BANK IS STRICTLY A NATIVE AFFAIR

New Hillsboro National Has All Home Talent as Stockholders.

The Hillsboro National bank, Hillsboro, Or., opened for business yesterday following a general reception held in the bank offices Friday afternoon.

The banking company was organized December 12, 1910, with capital stock of \$50,000. The officers are W. H. Wehrung, president; Dr. S. T. Linklater, vice president, and D. Kuratli, cashier. The directors are: J. C. Hare, H. T. Bagley, E. I. Kuratli, J. C. Kuratli, Mrs. M. C. Wehrung and G. A. Wehrung.

The bank is essentially a Washington county institution. W. H. Wehrung, the president, was born in Washington county. He is the son of Henry Wehrung, a wealthy pioneer farmer. For years Mr. Wehrung was engaged in the general mercantile business in Hillsboro. He served as state senator from Washington county from 1904 to 1904.

Dr. Linklater, the vice president, has practiced medicine in Washington county for more than 33 years. David Kuratli served in the savings department of the Oregon Trust, Portland. He resigned a position as chief deputy sheriff of Washington county to become cashier of the new bank.

Mrs. W. C. Wehrung, one of the board of directors, is the wife of Henry Wehrung and mother of the president, W. H. Wehrung. She has been in Washington county since 1848. G. A. Wehrung, another director, is the brother of the president. He was born in Washington county. H. T. Bagley, another director, has resided in Washington county since 1855. He is now mayor of Hillsboro. J. C. Hare, owner of the Hillsboro Lumber company, and son of the late W. D. Hare, famous Oregon pioneer, is another director. E. I. Kuratli, director, was an officer of Washington county for years. At present he is in the real estate and loan business. He is a brother of Cashier Kuratli and son of J. C. Kuratli, wealthy farmer, who completes the board.

Woodmen to Celebrate.

Hillsboro, Or., March 4.—The Woodmen of the World will hold a big "pow-wow" tonight at the Hartman rink in this city. Portland Woodmen have chartered cars and will be out in force. Delegations from the various camps of this county will also be present. It is reported that about 30 candidates will be initiated. The Hillsboro band will lead the parade and a public drill will be given by the visiting degree teams.

James Rosenfeld.

Word has been received by the family of Arthur Rosenfeld of this city that "Jimmy," as he was familiarly known by friends here, has been appointed to a position on the corps of medical attendants at Mt. Sinai hospital, New York. Mr. Rosenfeld will graduate from Johns Hopkins university, of Baltimore, Md., this spring, receiving the degree of M. D. He passed third in a list of 65 applicants for the much coveted positions in the famous Gotham hospital. The young doctor has many friends and classmates in Portland, who will be greatly pleased to learn of his success. He was formerly a student at Stanford university.

A pair of window fasteners placed on the under side will hold together an expansion table not equipped with locking devices.

PORTLANDER WILL GO ON MT. SINAI STAFF



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EVENING CLOSING OF DRAWS ASSURED

Attorney General Asks War Department to Consider People's Rights.

Portland has found an unexpected friend in Attorney General Wickersham, who, according to a letter received by United States Attorney McCourt yesterday, has asked the war department to come to the rescue of those who have to use the Willamette river bridges and to arrange evening hours for keeping the draws closed.

The letter says Mr. Wickersham has called the attention of the war department to the hardship worked upon the people of Portland by having draws opened at all hours upon response to boat signals and suggesting that closed periods during the morning and evening be arranged.

It is considered probable that the department at Washington will communicate at once with Major McIndoe of the United States engineers, who is in charge of river improvement work here, and request him to arrange a satisfactory schedule for evening closing of the drawbridges as well as for morning.

If this is done the troubles of bridge users will practically be over. The morning hours arranged by the war department and the county court have proved satisfactory in avoiding unusual delays while the westbound rush is on and if similar arrangements can be made for the evening the sorrows of the East Siders will be fewer.

Prosecutions already begun against the members of the county commissioners court by United States Attorney McCourt will not be dropped because of the new move by the attorney general. They will be brought to trial for violating the navigation regulations.

FOREST GROVE FAIR GROUNDS LAID OUT

Forest Grove, Or., March 4.—Lumber is being hauled to the grounds of the Washington County Agricultural & Livestock association, east of this city, to be used in the erection of barns and stables. The race track is practically completed, and as soon as the stables are built, horses will be quartered there and trained preparatory to the spring and summer meets. The grounds of the association contain a fine grove of trees, and it is the intention of the management to improve them so that county fairs and celebrations may be held in connection with the race meets.

Dunsmuir Gets Judgment.

San Francisco, March 4.—Judgment for \$103,500 was obtained here today by James Dunsmuir, son of the late premier of British Columbia, from R. Dunsmuir Sons & Co. Dunsmuir claimed that he was due this amount for personal loans made to the company.

THE Fashion Exhibit of Men's Spring Attire which we have prepared for the elite of Portland is now open, and ready for your inspection. Our offerings are distinctively different, and possess that elegance and style which is so necessary for the gentleman

Fashion Exhibit of Ladies' and Misses' Spring Suits and Coats on the third floor—Take the elevator

BEN SELLING

Leading Clothier
Morrison at Fourth