

# NOXIOUS SMOKE PUTS FIREMEN IN HOSPITAL IN CONSTANT STREAM

## Thirty-nine Overcome While Fighting Blake, McFall Co. Blaze.

### INSURANCE COVERS LOSS

Flames at Fourth and Burns Streets Required Attention of Firefighters for More Than 12 Hours.

Estimated Fire Losses.

Owners of agents of the fire victims estimated their losses this morning as follows:

- The Blake, McFall company, stock and building contents, value \$150,000, loss covered by insurance; building owned by Hughes estate, less than \$40,000; George P. Ide & Co., \$30,000; Hicks-Chatten Engraving company, \$25,000; Portland Stationery and Woodenware company, \$10,000; Montague O'Reilly Contracting company, \$500; W. H. Wahl Incandescent Lamp company, \$25,000; Western Dry Goods company, \$2000; Marshall Field & Co., \$800; O. E. Fletcher Sales agency, \$300; Kelley-Clyde company, \$500; F. T. Crowe & Co., \$1600; Santa Cruz Portland Cement company and Standard Portland Cement company, \$1500.

The Blake, McFall company stock insurance is carried in 13 companies, the total amount being \$170,000, and this, President D. Braun of the company, this morning said, would fully cover the loss.

The W. H. Wahl Incandescent Lamp company occupied 8000 square feet of the fourth floor of the building, with a stock valued at \$40,000. The loss, Mr. Wahl says, is fully covered by insurance.

The other losses are said to be fully covered.

Thirty-nine firemen were injured or overcome by smoke and heat, some seriously, and damage, roughly estimated at \$250,000, was done by the fire unknown origin, starting at 7 o'clock last night, that practically wiped out the downtown offices and storerooms of the Blake, McFall company, wholesale paper dealers, at Fourth and Ankeny streets.

The building is a six story structure, and the flames swept through the second, third and fourth stories with the greatest violence. The fire reached the fifth, crept up the partitions in the sixth, but the damage on these two floors, the firemen say, was done only by smoke and the deluge of water in which the paper conflagration was finally drowned.

Belong have Portland firemen had a more vicious fire to combat. Thirty-nine members of the department were carried to the city emergency hospital, five in such a serious condition that their lives were in jeopardy.

Use of the pulmotors of the Portland Railway, Light & Power company and the Pacific Telephone & Telegraph company.

Patrolmen Discover Flames.

The fire was discovered by Patrolmen Klingenandt and Kneib, who saw the flames flashing past an Ankeny street window, and noticed the smoke seeping through cracks.

Fire Chief Dowell arrived on the second alarm, and seeing once the seriousness of the fire, gave orders that brought every company from the west side business district and the central side.

The spectacular fight was made from the Ankeny street side. The street is less than 30 feet wide, and the firemen swarmed up a fire escape on the building just north of hanging on like spiders directed 12 streams into all the windows on the north side of the building, coming from the fifth to the second stories.

Another body of firemen attacked the blaze from the south side and were successful in preventing its passing over a light court that divided the building into two parts. Still others went to the roof and poured water into the building.

Hardly an hour after the fire started men overcome by smoke had to be brought out of the building. Down the east side fire escape about 9 o'clock the unconscious forms were handed in a constant stream. The burning paper, impregnated with arsenic to bleach it, the firemen say, caused fumes that quickly drove them to fresh air.

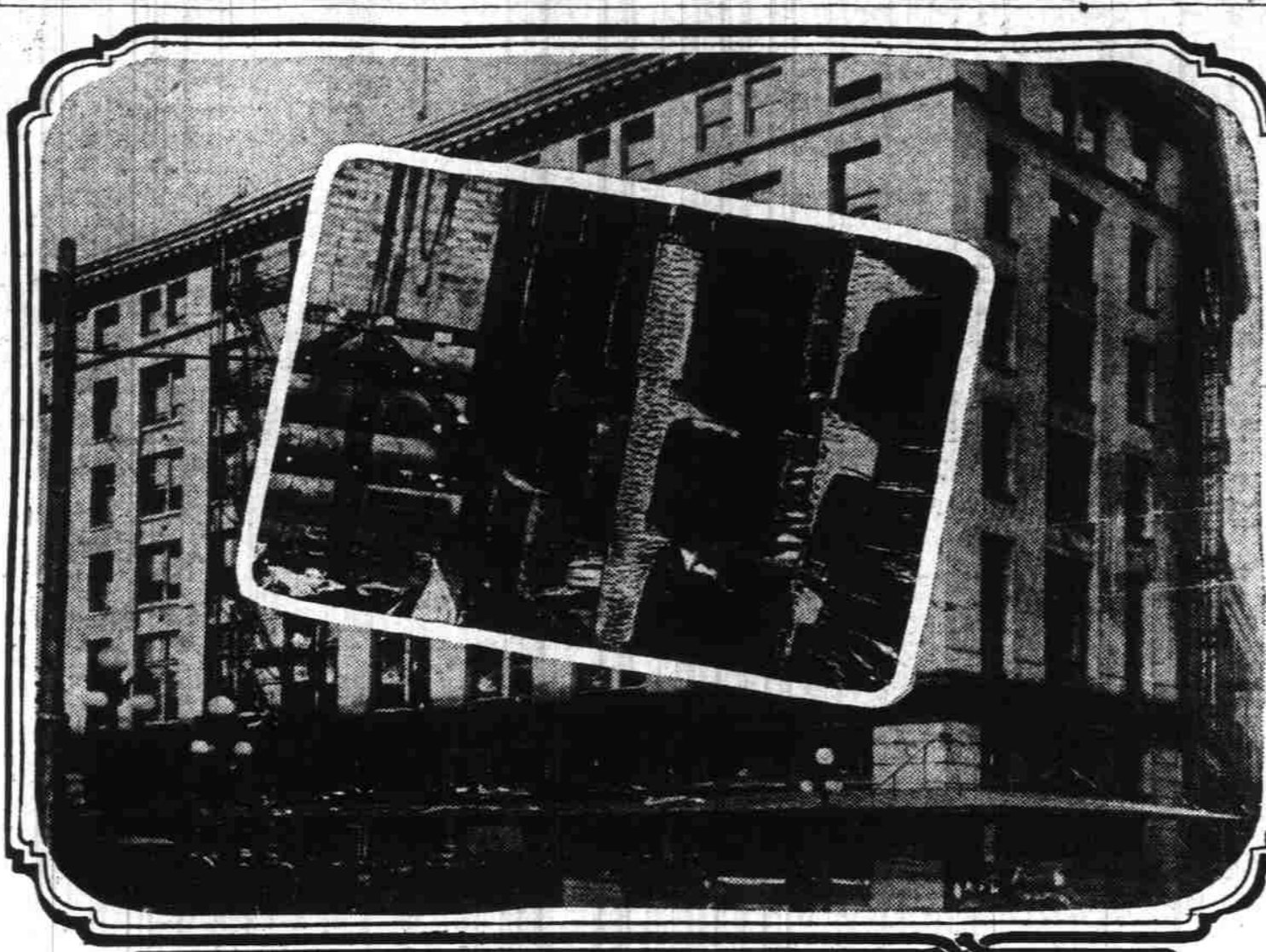
Firemen Taken to Hotel.

For a couple of hours there was a lull in casualties, and then from 11 o'clock until 12:30 the limit of human endurance was reached and the real rush began. Twenty-seven men, after 11 o'clock, were either assisted to the city emergency hospital or carried there unconscious in ambulances.

A strange scene was presented at the Multnomah hotel last evening. The usual concert was being given in the main lobby, and a large crowd occupied the chairs about the musicians. The firemen were brought unconscious through the crowd and into the Blue room.

Throughout the evening, the smoke victims not taken to the hospital walked up and down in the Blue room, while the crowd of concert-goers gazed through the glass doors separating the room from the lobby. At one time six firemen, supported by volunteers, were

## SCENES FROM LAST NIGHT'S STUBBORN FIRE ON FOURTH STREET



made to vigorously pace the floor. After 9 o'clock Fire Chief Dowell directed that ambulances be kept on hand constantly, and when the smoke victims were most numerous the vehicles were kept constantly on the run.

F. E. Close, hoseman of engine 2, was the most seriously affected. He was one of the first victims, and was unconscious for hours. The pulmotor saved his life. City Physician Fred Ziegler stated, Captain Johnson of Engine 4 was also unconscious for a long time, and heroic methods with the pulmotor were necessary.

Members of Crew Trapped.

The Engine 2 company, led by Captain Hawkins, went far back into the third story, behind the flames, fighting to keep them from going across the light quadrangle. There a back draft caught them, and for a while the members of this crew were trapped. Captain Hawkins was not badly affected, but F. E. Close, James Mulholland, W. L. Harwood, T. H. Cooper, J. Bannon, hoseman, and H. B. Hatcher, driver, had to be taken to the emergency hospital. At one time early this morning only one man of Engine 2 was on duty.

Three physicians, pulmotor crews, Captain of Police Circle, a squad of officers and other city officials who volunteered work incessantly until 8 o'clock this morning. Captain of Police Inskip was on the scene until midnight.

The following firemen, in addition to those from engine 2, received treatment there:

- Engine 4—Captain Johnson, R. L. Chambers, Arthur Schmidt and F. H. McCormick.
- Truck 2—Captain E. L. Thompson, F. E. Platt, Lieutenant Frank Yandle.
- Engine 3—Captain T. French, Fred Hoffman, J. P. Bird, Ralph Barks, W. J. Miller, Lieutenant Otto Wifel of this company was in a serious condition from the smoke, but refused to go to the hospital, and received treatment at the Multnomah hotel.
- Truck 3—Captain Guy Parmenter, L. E. Dudley, E. J. Gunn. Dudley was one of the five men who nearly died at the emergency hospital.
- Engine 7—Lieutenant Day, Fred Rittour, D. F. Bradford.
- Truck 4—Truckman Jack Mattes.
- Engine 5—Captain F. P. May fell on some glass in the darkness on the third floor and cut his hand so seriously that he will be off for two weeks. A number of stitches had to be taken. He and J. D. Reid, Cecil Sater and Ben Gabriel were taken to the hospital.

Crews Blinded by Smoke.

From the crew of Engine 22, Captain A. M. Crews was totally blinded by the smoke, and had not recovered his sight this morning. He and W. E. Anderson and A. F. Reeves, hoseman, went to the emergency hospital. All the firemen were taken from the hospital to their headquarters or homes in police automobiles this morning.

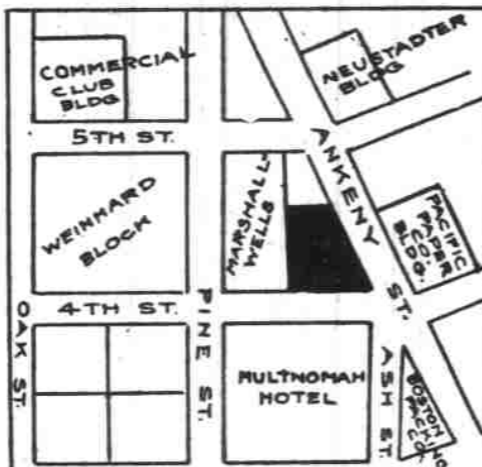
Chief Dowell, seeing that the fire was surrounded and was being slowly drowned out by the score of streams of water being poured on it, ordered all men out of the building at about 11 o'clock, and those who were sent to the hospital after that time were men who became ill on reaching the fresh air.

O. W. Mielke, manager of the Blake-McFall company, completed arrangements early this morning for temporary quarters at 11 Fourth street, three doors north of the old building. The new Heintz building, on the north side of Ankeny street, between East Second and Third streets, is being constructed for the Blake-McFall company and will be occupied next fall.

The Blake-McFall building was constructed in 1910 and is of heavy mill construction. It was purchased last fall by the Ellis G. Hughes estate, of which W. C. Alvord is the Portland agent.

The Blake-McFall company suffered an \$80,000 loss in its plant at Spokane in August, and a loss of \$24,000 in offices and warehouse at Tacoma in December, 1913.

It is fortunate that a woman can talk and sew at the same time. It would be bad for sewing to be neglected.



Blake, McFall Company building, which, so far as exterior appearance indicates, withstood attack of fire without much damage. Insert shows interior view and charred stock shelves. Map at bottom shows location of fire.

### SIDELIGHTS ON THE FIRE

Mayor H. R. Albee was there with his family and his private secretary, William H. Warren. As he had on his Sunday clothes, it was suggested that he put on a fireman's coat and helmet. Battalion Chief Stevens got the coat and helmet, and the mayor became a real fireman.

In addition to providing room where the firemen overcome with smoke could be cared for, the Multnomah hotel management served steaming coffee to the firemen.

Major Brown of the Vancouver Army post was present, and gave material aid to the firemen overcome with smoke. He assisted the physicians both at the scene of the fire and at the emergency hospital.

The fire was the first Sunday blaze Chief Dowell had been to in some time. Sunday is his regular day off, but when he learned of the fire last night, it took him only a few seconds to get to the scene. He did not have his fireman's clothes, however, until his suit got wet and he changed it and secured his white rubber coat and helmet. After that he was a busy man.

Once a fireman, always a fireman, proved true last night. J. L. Ambrose, former member of the fire bureau, who was recently discharged, did not resist the temptation to get into the fire. He borrowed a hat and coat and fought with his former companions on the Ankeny street side where the blaze was hottest. Finally he became overcome with smoke, and had to be carried to the street. When revived he went back to work again.

In addition to the men from the Oregon National Guard, a squad of men from the cruiser Boston gave material assistance to the firemen. The soldiers were pressed into service to keep the crowds back. A patrolman in civilian clothes tried to get through the fire lines and upon refusing to show his authority was promptly halted by a militiaman. The patrolman then ar-

rested the soldier and took him to the police station. Captain Inskip heard about the mistake and hurriedly got the soldier out of the police station, and then reprimanded the officer.

When it was seen that the fire was to be stubborn, Chief Dowell gave orders to bring in a line from the fireboat. Ankeny street from Fourth to the river was cleared, and the men started laying in the hose. Hardly had the water been turned on when a streetcar going down Second street ran over the hose and put it out of commission. The water had to be shut off and a new length of hose inserted. The accident caused a delay of several minutes in getting water on the fire from the fireboat.

Many people do not realize what it means to be the wife of a fireman, but those who were at the scene last night can explain it now. As soon as word reached the wives of some of the men that the fire was serious, they hurried to the scene. Patrolmen, soldiers, civilians and doctors were besieged with inquiries from women whose husbands were fighting the blaze. The women filled the lobby of the Multnomah hotel and the corridors of the emergency hospital awaiting word concerning their husbands. The changing of the ambulance bell told them that some fireman was on the way to the hospital. Many of the women were in tears most of the time.

The drivers of the Ambulance Service company were kept busy taking the men from the scene of the fire to the hospital. As the smoke became heavier the firemen stumbled to the street and collapsed at the rate of one every five minutes. It was necessary to keep an ambulance ready all the time.

Dr. H. B. Marcellus, health officer, was at the fire and assisted the overcome firemen before they were taken to the hospital. City Physician Ziegler cared for the men at the hospital. Assistant Health Officer Beeman was there early in the evening.

Doctors and patrolmen had greatest difficulty in getting the men to go to the hospital. Despite the fact that most of them were in a serious condition they persisted in staggering to their feet and starting back into the burning building. Many of them had to be forcibly held and placed in the ambulances.

Chief Dowell had the assistance of all of his battalion chiefs. In addition to Assistant Chief Laudenklos, Battalion Chiefs Stevens, Holden and Young were on the job.

The Draeger smoke helmets were much in evidence last night. They were used by firemen to get into the very center of the smoke-laden building and assist firemen, without helmets, who had been overcome with smoke, out of the building.

The jitneys and streetcars did a rushing business carrying people to the fire. A number of the enterprising jitney drivers put signs on their cars which read "Direct to the fire."

E. G. Gustafson, an electrician of the fire bureau, got into the basement where the fire was raging and shut off the gas.

# EFFORT TO IMPROVE GRAMMAR OF PUPILS TO BE UNDERTAKEN

## English Teachers at Washington High to Hold Personal Conferences.

### VERBAL METHOD IS BEST

Opinion Held That Errors Pointed Out By Word of Mouth Prove More Effective.

A new plan is to be tried at the Washington high school to determine if the students can be taught to use proper English.

An effort is to be made to answer the questions often heard: Why do so many high school students use poor grammar? Is it the fault of the schools?

These questions have been asked by many a business man who has been surprised at the way the young graduate, as he sets out to conquer the business world, twists and jumbles his verbs and prepositions and phrases. Often he finds in the amazing sentences he finds in his letters, the business man is at a loss to understand how his stenographer, just out of school, spent her time during the preceding 12 years.

The plan for improving the teaching methods at the Washington high school is to adopt the conference system. The school board voted last week to employ an additional teacher so as to give the system a trial during the remainder of this term. If it proves its worth three or four more teachers will be added to the English department next year.

Individual attention to the students needing special help is the idea to be followed.

**Personal Way Best.**

"The personal conference is the only way to reach the pupil individually," says Superintendent Alderman, in an outline of the plan. "The pupils most in need of help do not appropriate to themselves and later apply the general criticism given by the teacher before the class. Henry, too often thinks that the error applies to the other fellow."

The amount of red-inking can be substituted for the teacher's verbal explanation of the errors on the pupil's own theme and the direction looking toward the elimination of the error.

"More important than all else, the personal conference on the basis of the theme gives the teacher the much-coveted opportunity to learn the pupil's environment, temperament, likes and dislikes, peculiar limitations—mental, moral and physical.

**Pupils Desire It.**

"By experience with this plan on a small scale, the value of it has been demonstrated to me by both the results and the testimony of the pupils who have been recommended for conference

# WILL HONOR HEAD OFFICERS



Left to right—Dr. J. A. Rutledge, medical director, M. W. A. Sanatorium, Colorado Springs; F. C. Van Galder, editor of the Modern Woodman Magazine; S. S. Tanner, member head camp board of directors, M. W. A.

On Saturday evening, April 24, the Modern Woodmen of America will hold a mass meeting in honor of three of their head officers at the old Baker theatre, Eleventh and Morrison.

Dr. J. A. Rutledge, supreme medical director, will be the principal speaker and guest of honor. He is in charge of the Sanatorium at Colorado Springs, and is an authority on tuberculosis. He will supplement his lecture with a motion picture showing the famous sanatorium. S. S. Tanner, one of the

board of directors of the Modern Woodmen of America, will deliver a fraternal address.

F. C. Van Galder, editor of the Modern Woodman Magazine for the past 15 years, will tell something about the management of a magazine with a million circulation.

An excursion on the Columbia on Sunday, April 25, a huge banquet on Monday night, April 26, at the Portland hotel, and automobile trips about the city, have been arranged for by the different local committees.

event, next Saturday, when the "Nads" from Vancouver, Wash., come over for a match game of 500 with the local deaf colony.

# Thompson's Body Is Found in Willamette

Floating in the Willamette river, the body of Ole Thompson, 40 years old, of Holbrook, was found near the Portland Lumber company mill yesterday. Thompson had lived for a number of years with Harry Harris of Holbrook, who identified the body. Thompson had three brothers and three sisters in eastern states, and an effort is being made by the coroner to get into communication with them.

In the clothes of the dead man were found receipts for taxes, a safe deposit slip on a Portland bank, \$10.50 in cash and a bunch of keys.

Thompson disappeared about 10 days ago, when he started for the train to go east to attend his father's funeral. It is thought he fell from a raft into the river, as there is no evidence of foul play.

# Contest at Oakland.

Oakland, Or., April 19.—The final oratorical contest in the county for the gold medal given by the W. C. T. U., was held last evening before a large and appreciative audience in the assembly hall of the Oakland high school. There were six contestants for the honor, three young ladies and three young men, and each displayed unusual ability in their renditions. The judges awarded the medal to Mr. Jewett.

# Bequest Discovered In Nick of Time

D. M. Simpson of St. Louis Applies for Ann's Estate While Bequest Proceedings are in Progress.

David Marcus Simpson, who was bequeathed \$1000 by the will of Mrs. Sarah J. Simpson, who discovered the bequest while proceedings were in progress to escheat the bequest, has made formal application for the money in an affidavit received by Justice Inerby Evans from him at St. Louis, Mo.

Simpson was a nephew of Mrs. Simpson's husband, but his address was unknown and he had not been heard from for many years. He learned of the bequest through a neighbor.

He is 45 years old, a salesman, and resides at 4216 Aroo avenue, St. Louis. He had been described as over 70 years of age and a wanderer. His claim will be investigated before the bequest is paid.

# Y. M. C. A. Boys to Hold Annual Show

Numbers of Thrilling, Daredevil Acts Are on Program, as Well as Remarkable Trained Elephants.

Ed Werlein, it was announced today, will be ringmaster and chief announcer at the Jarum & Bingham circus, the annual show of the boys of the Y. M. C. A., to be staged in the association gymnasium Friday and Saturday nights.

Numbers of thrilling acts are to be staged in the circus. One of the most daredevil acts is that of Donald Bennett, 13, who performs unheard-of gyrations in midair when he is thrown by Philip Wilder from one trapeze to Rex Thornton on another.

Numbers of other risk-defying performances are on the program, and all of the thrills of childhood days are to be recalled by trained elephants, remarkably human ponies and dancing animals of all kinds.

# Story of Rose Told in Beautiful Film

How the red rose came to be the theme of "The Story of the Blood-Red Rose," poetically told on the screen at the National yesterday. Whether the tale is based on an old legend or whether it comes full-fledged from the fancy of some inspired scenario writer, it is none the less beautiful.

"The Love Whip," depicting the trouble that jealousy can make for married folks, "Ham at the Harem," "A Night in the Jungle" and "Joe Roberts," heroic player, completed the bill.

The program today includes "Supply and Demand," something comparatively new in the films, being a George Ade drama. The headliner, however, is a drama, which will be shown again tomorrow. With these is "The Great Experiment," the "Hearst" and "The Society runs Wednesday and Thursday.

Seattle—Albert Bordeck and his wife died from ptomaine poisoning after eating canned soup.

REMEMBER THE Y. M. C. A. JARUM & BINGHAM CIRCUS APRIL 23 AND 24—IT'S THE FUNNIEST EVER!

Four New Models Tomorrow in

**"Wirthmor" Waists \$1**

A family patent flour, milled Waists in both long and short-sleeve models.

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**1/2 PRICE**

Announcement Extraordinary! Beginning Tomorrow

**We Shall Close Out Entire Present Stock Thus Offering to You**

**Any Picture at Half-Price**

**1/2 PRICE**

We cannot begin to quote prices—the stock is too large, too varied and too beautiful. We simply ask that you come here tomorrow and this week

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This applies to every framed or unframed Picture in stock, except those which we have already Marked at Less Than Half Price and on which Pictures both the regular and sale-price tickets still remain.

**Framed Pictures!**

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Metal Frames, Ivory, Celluloid, Gilt, Gold, Silver, Nickel Finish, Round, Oval and Square Shapes, Large, Small and Medium Size Frames

French Mirrors, mahogany and antique frames, in different sizes and with bowknot finished tops.

**Sheet Pictures!**

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**Butter-Nut Bread**

At Your Grocer

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Sent to Your Home Absolutely FREE

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