

MOTORBOATS BURN IN SPECTACULAR FIRE ON THE RIVER

Gasoline Tank Explodes and
Flames Do Much Damage at
the Foot of Woodward Avenue.

BLAST HURLS TIMBERS FAR

Walter Johnson, Caught in the
Flames, Saves Life by Leap
Into Waters of the Willamette.

Fire, which followed a gasoline tank explosion in the Fred W. Vogler bathhouse at the foot of Woodward avenue shortly after 8 o'clock Wednesday night, destroyed two of the best motorboats on the river, two bathhouses and a portion of the municipal landing at the foot of Woodward avenue, and for a while threatened the Inman-Poulsen mill. The blaze caused a total damage estimated at \$12,000.

When the explosion occurred Walter Johnson, employed by Vogler to care for the cabinet cruiser Corenado and the speed boat Vogler Boy II, was working in the bathhouse where the vessels were stored. Both sides of the house and a portion of the roof were torn away by the blast. Portions of one of the vessels was thrown on the roof of the motorboat clubhouse over two hundred feet away.

FLAMING GASOLINE SPREADS
Flaming gasoline was thrown over adjoining structures and the bathhouse of W. T. O'Brien was quickly engulfed in the flames. Johnson, with clothes aflame and hands and face seared with the flaming gasoline, saved his life by jumping into the river and swimming ashore. He was taken to the Good Samaritan hospital where his condition was reported not dangerous this morning.

Two fireboats and two land companies answered the fire call and tons of water poured on the blaze spread the flaming gasoline over the surface of the river and several times it reached the wharves of the Inman-Poulsen lumber mill directly below the scene of the explosion. Efforts of the fireboats saved the mill from being involved.

Battalion Fire Chief Lee Holden, who was in Sellwood when the blaze started, arrived at the fire before any of the other fire fighters and helped in the rescue of two women who fell into the Willamette from a nearby bathhouse. The women became excited by the fire and plunged into the river.

HUNDREDS SEE SPECTACLE

Hundreds of people gathered in vessels near the fire, spread the rumor that a woman had been drowned during the explosion and police and firemen grappled the river bottom and the boat-house ruins long after the fire was out.

Vogler says that the Corenado, one of the most luxurious crafts of its kind in the river, cost \$12,000 to build. The Vogler Boy II, valued at \$1000, was the grand prize regatta at the Panama-Pacific exposition and has captured a score of cups in river regattas. O'Brien's motorboat, Niagara, was fortunately on the river when the blaze started and escaped from destruction.

SUSPENDING OF PHONE RATE URGED

(Continued From Page One)

tails of the fight being made against enforcement of the increased telephone rates. The commissioners stipulated that his employment be on the basis of \$25 compensation for each day of his actual work.

Newell has been employed in similar capacity by the Oregon public service commission. The city attorney's office was also given authority to employ

whatever other help may be necessary in preparing for the fight.

Tomlinson's letter to the commission follows:
In view of the questionable validity of the exchange rates which the Pacific Telephone & Telegraph company is now attempting to collect in Oregon municipalities, it is suggested that some action that will suspend the collection of these rates until their validity is established.

TWO MODES SUGGESTED
The alternative two possible modes of procedure. One is the suspension of the schedule by your commission under chapter 236 of the Laws of Oregon for 1919 pending the investigation which you have set for the 27th of this month. The other is a suit for an injunction in which your commission, the state of Oregon, the city of Portland and any other municipality may join as plaintiffs.

The present situation seems to be about as follows: On November 4, 1918, there was filed with your commission by the Pacific Telephone & Telegraph company a schedule of exchange rates in the state of Oregon. On November 15, 1918, the postmaster general, laboring under the assumption that these rates had gone automatically into effect under the provisions of the public utility act of this state, approved what he thought had then been legally accomplished. Upon being informed by your commission that these rates could not be made effective without a public hearing, the postmaster general requested that you proceed to a hearing and determination of the reasonableness of these rates.

NEW RATES PRESCRIBED

This was done and new rates were prescribed by your commission. These rates were actually put into effect by the company and collected for several months, beginning May 1, 1919, and continuing until July 31, 1919, and in a telegram from the postmaster general dated August 9, 1919, it is stated that the rates mentioned in your order were approved by the postmaster general June 17, 1919. By the act of congress of July 11, 1919, which provided for the relinquishment of government control over telephone systems, it was provided "that the existing toll and exchange telephone rates as established or approved by the postmaster general on or prior to June 6, 1919, shall continue in force for a period not to exceed four months," etc. It appears from that act that only such rates approved by the postmaster general prior to June 6, 1919, as are designated "existing" rates shall be continued for four months. The rate which the postmaster general claims to have approved on November 15, 1918, cannot be continued in effect for four months for the reason that it was not an "existing" rate under the meaning of the act whether you construe the word "existing" as it is construed in the act, or to July 11, 1919, the date of the act, or to July 11, 1919, the date of the act itself.

ORDER HAS NO EFFECT

Furthermore, the attempt of the postmaster general on July 23 to revise the dead schedule of November 15 could not have the effect of continuing the rate beyond government control, for the reason that it was ordered subsequent to June 6. While the postmaster general in his telegram to Mayor Baker states that he authorized the schedule of November 15 on the same day, he states that on November 15 he suspended it. Surely a suspended rate is not an authorized rate and the suspension was not revoked nor the rate attempted to be again established until the postmaster general's power to create a rate that would last beyond government control had ceased. The postmaster general between June 6 and August 1, 1919, might have established or changed a rate, but such rate under the act of congress of July 11 would not continue beyond government control. The postmaster general's approval on June 17 of your commission's finding of May 1 would make that rate effective for the time being by virtue of the act of congress of July 11, 1919, notwithstanding the invalidity of your order.

MAY 1 RATE EFFECTIVE

If there is any schedule that was in effect prior to June 6, 1919, which had the approval of the postmaster general prior to that date, it must have been the rate mentioned in your order of May 1. It is possible to construe the action of the government's agency, the telephone company, in actually collecting that rate as an approval of it prior to June 6, notwithstanding the fact that the postmaster general does not claim to have formally approved it until after that date. In any event, whether approved or not, it was the "existing" rate that was being collected on June 6, the date mentioned in said act, and also on July 11, the date of the act itself. If the rate mentioned in your order of May 1, 1919, is not the schedule which the act of congress of July 11 proposes

to continue in effect for four months after government control, then there is no rate to which act of congress applies and the only lawful rate at this time is the pre-war rate, that shown in the schedule filed with your commission previous to the war, and we are inclined to the belief that the pre-war rate is now the lawful rate.

RATES SHOULD BE SUSPENDED

If our reasoning is correct, then the collection of the increased rates which the company is now attempting to do by the telephone company as a public utility and not by the postmaster general, and chapter 236 of the Laws of Oregon for 1919 seems to authorize your commission in such a case to suspend these rates pending a hearing and determination of the reasonableness thereof. The subscribers in Portland and throughout the state are looking to your commission to protect them by every means available under the law until the validity and reasonableness of such rates have been regularly established.

VACATION OF MUCK IS PUBLIC EXPENSE

(Continued From Page One)

by him for the purpose of acquiring knowledge of roads being constructed adjacent to Multnomah county.

"MUCK PROVES," REPLIES MUCK
"Muck denied that this was an improper use of a county machine as claimed by Kaste and asserted that his title as commissioner in a county expending vast amounts for road work would amply justify investigation at county expense of roads in neighboring counties.

Kaste, on the other hand, maintains that there is not a shadow of authority for Muck's using the county car on his vacation. He pointed out in the furtherance of his contention that the disapproval of the other commissioners as evidenced by their action in taking the car away from Muck upon his return was ample proof that something was wrong.

That this use of county property is only another of the multitudinous examples of abuse by public officials of their positions is the emphatic statement of Kaste.

HOYT AND HOLMAN WELL HEHELED

"Hoyt and Holman own their own cars," said Kaste, "but they ask the county to pay for the gasoline that they use in joyriding with their friends and families. Muck goes them one better and has the county furnish the car."

Muck's plea of investigating road conditions in other counties on his vacation is lame. The fact remains that he used a county car for his pleasure trip in writing away the days of his sojourn from his duties as commissioner and the taxpayers, as usual, foot the bill.

Such conditions can exist that public officials can determine the expenditure of public funds on such flimsy pretexts, then it is high time that the public be informed to what uses their money is being put, and it is my avowed intention to make such condition known."

Friends Searching For Frank Wagner, Heir to Property

As the result of a telegram from Mrs. Carrie Wagner Lansing of Tynesta, Pa., Mrs. Pauline Baumes Patton, wife of S. S. Patton, 1275 Klondike street, is seeking Frank Wagner, Mrs. Lansing's brother, who is believed to be in Portland. Her efforts have been without success.

Mrs. Patton and Mrs. Wagner were girlhood friends and the request that Mrs. Patton find Wagner came with the hope that he may be located, as property left to him and to Mrs. Lansing is held for him. Mrs. Patton last saw Wagner in Tulare, Cal., in 1902, when she visited Mrs. Lansing, then a resident of that place.

McCarthy Funeral Thursday

Los Angeles, Cal., Aug. 14.—(I. N. S.) The interment of Daniel O'Connell McCarthy, one of the most picturesque newspaper characters of California, will occur tomorrow. McCarthy died at his home here. He owned and edited "The American Flag," the first radical union paper in California.

KOLCHAK'S FORCES BADLY SHATTERED

Russian Situation Again Critical,
According to Official Word
at Washington.

By John Edwin Novin

Washington, Aug. 14.—(I. N. S.)—The Russian situation again is critical. Admiral Kolchak, picked by the peace conference at Paris to lead a stable Russian government, has utterly failed.

Latest advices reaching Washington official and diplomatic circles indicate that the so-called Omak government is shattered by dissensions. Its armies are sent to them via Siberia either have failed to reach them or have been lost in action, and any hope on the way will arrive too late to do any good.

Foodstuffs sent forward as a result of the promises made by the Paris conference, have failed to reach their destination. All of the information reaching Washington indicates that the complete downfall of the Kolchak government is a matter of weeks, possibly of days.

A complete report detailing exact conditions in Russia is expected by the end of the week. It is expected that S. Morris, the American ambassador to Japan, is now en route back to his post at Tokyo, following an investigation at first hand of Russian conditions. His preliminary report already is in the hands of Secretary Lansing, but has been withheld from the public. However, it

is understood that he has reported that the Kolchak forces are being pressed back at every point by the Bolshevik troops and that some of the most influential of Kolchak's former associates have deserted him.

It is understood that there will be no change for the present in the position taken by the United States toward the Lenin-Trotsky government in Russia. Although representatives of that government are here in the United States and have been endeavoring to secure a resumption of trade between Russia and America, the United States is standing by its understanding with the allied governments that the blockade of Bolshevik Russia shall continue. In Paris in June the allied governments endeavored to have President Wilson authorize complete recognition of the Kolchak government. This was refused, but the president entered into an agreement whereby all possible aid was promised to the admiral. Arms, munitions and foodstuffs have been sent forward since then.

However, now it seems certain that the bulk of these supplies cannot be delivered and it is likely that further shipments will be held here.

H. C. L. Causes Suicide

San Francisco, Aug. 14.—(I. N. S.)—Inability to meet the high cost of living was assigned today by the widow of Maurice Halperin, 37, as cause for his suicide. He shot himself. He leaves a wife and four children.

Fistic Encounter Averted in House

Washington, Aug. 14.—(U. P.)—Representative Blanton, Texas, Democrat, today characterized Representative Hardy, Democrat of the same state, as a "rubber stamp" for his efforts in defense of the administration. Hardy left his seat in the house and rushed down the aisle, while Blanton started toward Hardy. It required the efforts of several members to prevent the Texas representatives from coming to blows.

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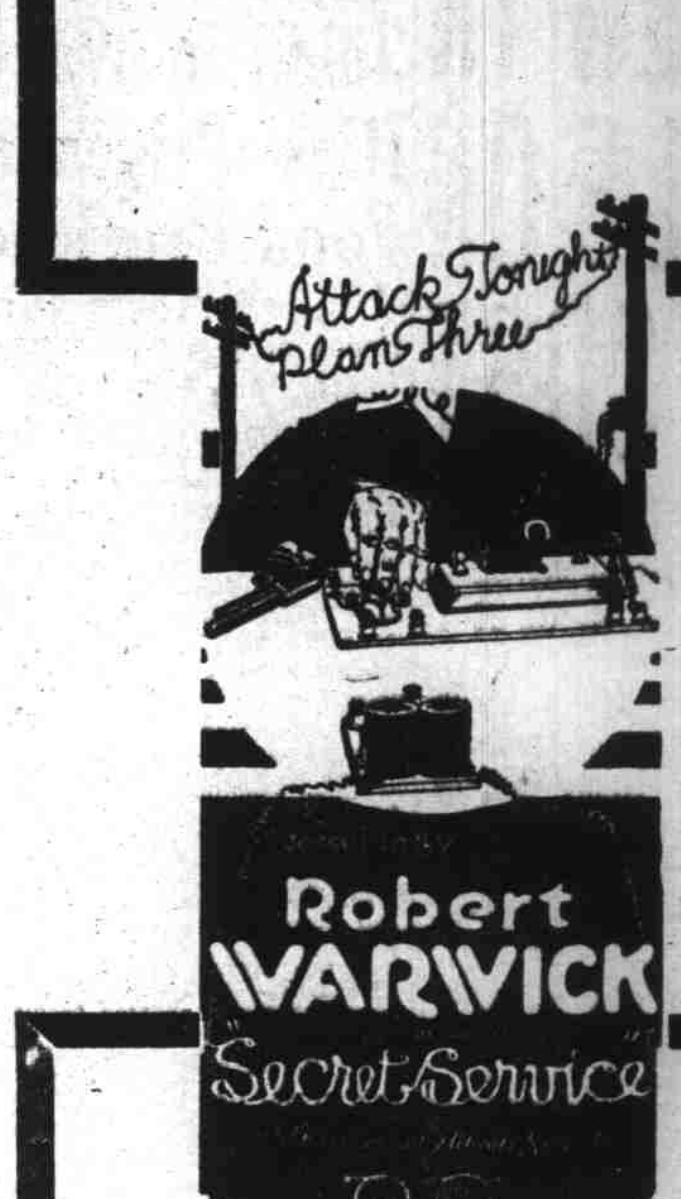
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STARTS FRIDAY FOUR DAYS



**Robert
WARWICK**
Secret Service

"Stop that man! For God's sake, stop him before it's too late!"

"What is it, love and goodbye?"

"Dhey's a-goni' ter shoot 'im—shoot him down like a dog, Missy, and Ah couldn't b'ar to see 'em do dat."

"Well, you know how it is with a feller's mother. Other people don't care, but mothers—well, they're different."

"Take him down the street and shoot him full of lead!"

"It isn't our lives alone; there are other lives to think of."

Sounds interesting, doesn't it, these sub-titles from "Secret Service"? And you'll find it all of that, and then some. Superbly staged and screened and with enough stars in the cast for ten pictures.

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1 Artistic ... \$675 \$685
1 Thompson ... 750 765
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2 Thompson ... 475 395
2 Thompson ... 450 375
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