

STEEPLE IS
SHATTERED BY
ELECTRIC BOLT

Patrolman C. C. Martin, Seeking
Shelter From Storm, Knocked
Senseless When Shock Hits
Edifice; Rain Puts Out Fire

HIGH LIGHTS OF
PORTLAND'S STORM
Steeple of First Presbyterian church struck and severely damaged.
Patrolman C. C. Martin knocked senseless for a few moments.
Fir tree in Laurelhurst and another on Reed College campus splintered.
Lights in Alberta district put out and flames blown.
Electricity argument at Municipal

terminal No. 4 at St. Johns completely knocked out.

- Lightning struck and seriously damaged the steeple of the First Presbyterian church during the heavy electric storm early Saturday morning and Patrolman C. C. Martin, who had taken shelter in the church doorway, had a narrow escape from injury.

The steeple took fire after being partially shattered by the electric bolt, but the heavy rain extinguished the blaze before much had burned.

Half a dozen small accidents, the result of the electrical disturbance, occurred in various parts of the city, none with the exception of the one

the church, resulted seriously.

MOST SEVERE IN YEARS

The storm was the most severe seen here in years. Two waves of thunder and lightning, accompanied by rain passed over the city from the south and the city was under a terrific cannonade in less than an hour.

Police Sergeant Keaton and Patrolman Martin were the only witnesses of the lightning striking the steeple which is 150 feet high. Martin said he had stepped into the shelter of the church doorway, partially to escape the rain and to see what was taking place.

The terrific concussion as the bolt connected with the steeple and flashed to the ground knocked the policeman down and for a moment he was senseless. He lay in the doorway amidst a shower of splinters. But was not struck by any of them. The ground in the vicinity of the steeple was carpeted with the slate.

FIRE ALARM TURNED IN

Martin turned in a fire alarm when he saw the steeple ablaze and engine 3 responded. The truck ladders were too short for the steeple, which is over 100

The fireman broke into the church

and aroused E. B. Burrows, the section, who had slept through the entire disturbance. He showed them the way up the narrow stairway to the top, but by the time the party of fire-fighters

(Continued on Page Two, Column One)

WOMAN AND SEVEN

WOMAN AND SEVEN CHILDREN BURNED

Spokane, July 17.—Mrs. John Roesch and seven children, ranging in age from 1 to 14 years, were

The only explanation advanced as to the source of the fire is that a smudge had been started near the house during the evening to keep mosquitoes away.

John Roesch, the father, was taken into custody, pending an investigation.

by Sheriff Dunning of Boundary county. According to Roesch's story, he discovered the fire, went out to get water and was unable to return because the flames had become so fierce as to preclude entry.

Los Angeles Finds Balm in Reports of Storm at Portland

Reports of the freak electrical storm in Portland were as balm to the wounded feelings of Los Angeles smarting under the publicity given her through her four earthquake shocks Friday. When the press associations reported the electrical storm in dispatches from Portland, Los Angeles was quick to "get on the wire" with requests for more details.

"We're eating this up down here,"

Portland rarely has more than two or three electrical storms a year.