

# BEAVER STATE HERALD

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## PERCY WARREN BLOWN TO ATOMS BY EXPLOSION OF DYNAMITE

Well known Lents Resident Meets Horrible Death in His Home in Rolley Addition—House Blown To Splinters—Mystery Surrounds Horrible Affair.

'Tis a wink of the eye, a draught of the breath,  
From the fullness of health to the paleness of death,  
From the gilded saloon to the bier and the shroud,  
Oh, why should the spirit of mortal be proud!

Hurled from the fullness of health into eternity is the horrible fate that met Percy Warren, a well-known Lents resident at 10:16 o'clock Tuesday evening.

A man utterly blown to pieces, his legs dismembered, disembowled, both hands blown off, his head and face

man's life and habits and no clue was obtained that would indicate foul play. Sheriff Stevens immediately notified the coroner, who arrived and took charge of the shattered remains. No inquest was held, as it was plainly evident that the man met his death by accident or from suicide.

**Visited Neighbors During Evening.**  
About 7 o'clock on the evening of the explosion Warren had called at the home of Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Dunn and requested Mrs. Dunn to play a number of selections on the pronograph, which request was granted, and Warren then left and went to the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Turpin,



The above shows the result of the terrible explosion that killed Percy Warren and demolished his house. The debris was scattered for hundreds of feet and pieces of flesh blown to the tree tops. Not a single piece of furniture, cooking utensil or other article escaped.

charred beyond recognition, a pile of debris—the remains of home—is the story of the horrible death of Percy Warren. Except that the agency of fate was a box of dynamite, nothing is known, and perhaps will always remain a mystery.

The accident, or whatever it may have been, occurred at exactly 10:16, according to the watch the dead man had carried and which was later found in the wreck. The explosion shook the whole neighborhood and caused no little alarm in Lents, which is situated about one mile away. The shock was felt in Portland and for several miles distant. A few people who heard the explosion saw a stream of fire shoot up into the sky and knew immediately that some horrible accident had occurred. Nearby neighbors were stunned and W. E. Dunn, who lives within about 200 feet of the place, was thrown from his bed and hurled against the wall. He soon recovered his senses, however, and rushed to the scene. Fire had originated among the debris and he extinguished the flames as soon as possible. Other neighbors appeared almost simultaneously and scores of citizens rushed out from Lents in automobiles and on motorcycles. There was nothing to be done, no assistance to render, as the horrible tragedy was over. An acre of ground was covered with shattered timber and splinters and the remains of a man found lying a short distance from what had once been a home.

### Dynamite in the House.

Warren had a 50-pound box of dynamite in the house, which he purchased several months ago for use in clearing ground on his place, but it is known that he had never used a stick of it, and except three sticks that had been loaned to a neighbor, the box was intact. That the dynamite was the agency of death, there is no doubt, but whether Warren caused the explosion through accident or committed suicide is a question unanswered.

### Sheriff Stevens Notified.

Sheriff Stevens was immediately notified and was soon at the scene, accompanied by a number of deputies. Neighbors were questioned as to the

who live close by. According to them, he left their place at about 9 o'clock and returned to his home. The time of his returning is also substantiated by Mr. Dunn who saw a light in Warren's house shortly after 9 o'clock. From that time nothing is known of Warren's actions until the explosion took place and his life blown out.

### Well Liked—Had No Enemies.

Warren had been a resident of Lents for the past several years and according to all was an excellent citizen, and had no known enemies. He had been married, his wife having died several years ago. A neighbor remarked to a Herald reporter that he was a man who always had a smile for everyone and was not of a morbid disposition. Since coming to Lents he had been engaged in buying, improving and selling real estate, and at the time of his death owned other property than the home destroyed. He was of English birth. While it is said he was a man who occasionally took a drink, he never became intoxicated, and in fact was of temperate habits. The neighbors whom he visited on the fatal evening say that he appeared as usual and no peculiar actions were noticed.

### Accidental or Suicide?

Whether Warren met his fate as the result of an accident, or whether he planned his death through the dynamite agency is a question that confronts his neighbors and friends, and is one that will probably never be settled. Of an apparently sunny disposition, with no known enemies, suicide or foul play seems out of the question, but just how the accident could have occurred is also a greater mystery. None of the dynamite had ever been used and according to friends he had no immediate intention of using the powder, hence it seems improbable that he would have been tampering with the deadly explosive in any way at that hour. One theory advanced is that he had seated himself in a chair and while smoking had gone to sleep, his cigar igniting his clothes, causing him to overturn the lamp in his excitement, resulting in a minor explosion that set off the box of dy-

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## CHURCH OBSERVES "MOTHERS DAY"

Interesting and Appropriate Ceremonies Held in Lents Evangelical Church—Rev. Conklin Delivers Address

Although Sunday, July 28, was the date for the annual commemoration of "Mother's Day," The Herald does not believe it too late to give an account of the services rendered in the Lents Evangelical church on that day.

The services were observed in the morning and were attended by a large number of people. To each of the large number of mothers present a bouquet of sweet peas was given. These, with other beautiful floral decorations, added to the festive appearance of the occasion.

In honor of the event, Harold Retherford effectively rendered a solo entitled, "I'll Wear a White Flower for You, Mother Dear."

The commemorative sermon, delivered by the pastor, Rev. Conklin, opened with a beautiful tribute to motherhood, and dealt with the possibilities and responsibilities of motherhood from the standpoint of "The Rights of the Child." He said in part:

"The greatest problem of the age is not that of Capital and Labor; it is not that of the Tariff; it is that of the training of the child to take his place in the church, state, and national life. Parents, as a rule, spend too little time in the training of their children. Every child has two inherent rights that cannot be denied: the right to be well born, and the right to be well reared."

In dealing with the latter point, he said:

"There are five essentials to the proper rearing of the child: first, every child should be taught implicit obedience. It is a sad fact, but none the less true, that the modern child rarely possesses this admirable trait. The injunction, 'Children obey your parents,' is too often interpreted 'Parents obey your children.' You cannot begin too early to instill habits of strict obedience into the mind of the child. Secondly, every child should be taught industry. A lazy boy will grow into a lazy man as surely as a crooked sapling will make a crooked tree. A lazy man is the most pitiable, as well as the most dangerous, character to be found anywhere. Many parents make the grave mistake of failing to teach their children to perform daily tasks simply because they find it easier to do it themselves. Although children often find the necessity of work rather disagreeable at the time, in later life they are most thankful for the habit thus formed. Thirdly, every child must be taught self-control or temperance. Many lives are shipwrecked by an uncontrolled will. Temperance should not be interpreted to apply to the use of alcoholic drinks only, but should be broadened to include moderation in eating, reading, pleasure, and fashion. Fourthly, every child must be taught the love and fear of God. This can only be accomplished by the example and unremitting care of the parents. This is perhaps the most sadly neglected of all the essentials of child training, as many parents leave it entirely to the church and its agencies. But while the church and Sunday school can accomplish much, the training received one day in the week cannot overcome the neglect of the other six. Fifthly, every child must be taught reverence for the Bible. Since the Bible is prohibited from the public schools, the home is the only place for teaching reverence for God's Word. Let the children see you read it; make them read it and learn it; it will pay." He closed with a touching picture of his own home life, and the lasting influence of his mother.

At the close of the sermon, Mr. and Mrs. Mackay, Mr. and Mrs. Lord, and Newton G. Hedin were received into church membership.

People who attend the Isis theater of evenings are assured of a good cool room. The new electric fans recently installed make the Isis a place of comfort and pleasure.

## ELGIN LIGHT PLANT DESTROYED BY FIRE

Elgin, Or., Aug. 5.—Elgin on Friday had one of the worst fires in years when the electric light plant was entirely destroyed by flames. The fire started in the engine and boiler room around the shavings bin and in less than five minutes the entire plant was in flames, and it was only by hard work on the part of the firemen that the planing mill and box factory adjoining were not burned also. The light plant was owned by H. D. Spencer & Co., and is a total loss, and as a consequence Elgin will be in darkness for some time to come.

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## MANY ANNEXATION PETITIONS IN FIELD

While Many Are Signing Petitions Asking For Vote—Others Urge Calling of a "Get-together" Meeting.

The question of the annexation of Lents to Portland at the coming November election is one uppermost in the minds of Lents citizens at present. Last week's Herald stated that a petition in the hands of Lou McKinley was being circulated, asking that the question be submitted to voters at the next election. The petition carried by Mr. McKinley is not the only one in existence, as there are several others, and the petitions are being signed by many. Aside from the fact that the petitions are being freely signed, there are no new developments in the movement save an effort on the part of many to get the business men to hold a "get together" meeting and decide upon some particular line of action.

In view of the fact that there is a difference of opinion, and that the business men are presenting various views, it is the conclusion of all that the only logical thing to do is to revive the commercial club and get the business men and taxpayers together and work in a line of union and harmony.

The question of annexation or incorporation is one of no little importance and one that demands serious consideration at the hands of all. This is the verdict of all and if the efforts of the business men count for anything a meeting of the commercial club will soon be called and the question of annexation, as well as many other important matters, will be dealt with in an intelligent manner.

A Herald representative visited various places of business this week and finds that Lents business men are not at all united on this particular question, but are ready to get together and discuss the merits of the question. Each man visited gives his just reason for his particular views and from all indications each man is ready to compromise on a basis that insures the greatest good to the greatest number.

The Herald believes that every business man should be given a say in the premises and that effort should be made by every one to arrive at a definite and intelligent conclusion and act accordingly.

Lents is, without doubt, the largest unincorporated town or suburb in the United States and the question of future government is not a question to be treated clandestinely or in a haphazard manner. The population of Lents is about 10,000 souls and is composed of an area and wealth that reaches a large sum.

Portland business men, or many of them, do not realize the importance of the annexation of Lents, or at least do not appear to. The action of Portland's city council in the matter of water rates, fire hydrants and other concessions would indicate that the city cares not whether Lents becomes a factor of the city's growth and wealth. This attitude on the part of Portland has been the cause of the development of a sentiment that is highly unfavorable to annexation, and it is an undeniable fact that if Lents interests were given the consideration that is due there would be little or no opposition to annexation.

## PORTLAND LIQUOR DEALER ACQUITTED

When a driver from the Spring Valley Wine Company entered the home of Mrs. C. S. Drake, in the Lents district, to make a prearranged delivery of a bottle of port wine, he plunged right into the midst of a delegation of Women's Christian Temperance Union members, assembled for the purpose of being there when he arrived. He was whipsawed.

This happened nearly a year ago, and yesterday A. Shapiro, a member of the firm, was placed on trial in Justice Bell's court for selling liquor in "dry" territory. He was acquitted.

Mrs. G. S. Ford, daughter of Mrs. Drake, naively told the court how it happened.

"I heard my mother give the order and I was surprised. I wanted to tell the man that she was a Woman's Christian Temperance Union member and that he would get into trouble."

The driver did not get the warning and appeared in due time with the wine which had been ordered. Present besides Mrs. Drake and her daughter were Mrs. George Kimber and Mrs. M. O. Winton, staunch "white-ribboners." They calmly accepted the vile fluid and paid for it, and then Mrs. Kimber went to the district attorney and swore to a complaint.

Active in the case were R. E. Beegle, a real estate man of Lents, and Rev. W. Boyd Moore of the Lents Methodist Episcopal church.

Grilled by Attorney Swett for their "frame-up" the "white-ribboners" stoutly denied that they had plotted. Mrs. Drake had ordered the wine because she thought she "might need it," and the other women "just happened" to be there when the wine was delivered. Swett told the jury not to believe this explanation and characterized the action of the women as an outrageous plot.—Oregonian, Aug. 7.

## TWO MORE LENTS HOMES ARE COMPLETELY RAZED FROM FIRE

Lents Visited by Three Fires Between 5 o'clock Friday Morning and 3 o'clock Sunday Morning—Origin of Two of The Blazes Unknown

From Friday morning at 4:30 to 3 o'clock Sunday morning Lents residents were aroused three times by the clang of the fire bell and the location of two residences and a barn are now marked by piles of ashes.

Friday morning's fire occurred on Tenth avenue, north and resulted in the destruction of a small residence belonging to F. C. Eddinger, who with his family resides on a small farm in Powell Valley. While unoccupied, the house was partly furnished and none of the effects were saved. The household goods were insured, but whether or not the house was insured is unknown. Mr. Eddinger is a man who suffers poor health and the loss to him is keenly felt. The origin of the fire is a mystery.

At 9 o'clock Saturday morning a small hen house and barn belonging to Eggiman Bros., and situated on South Main street, caught fire and was burned to the ground. The blaze was started by the father of the Eggiman brothers, in an attempt to rid the chicken house of lice. While the exact method of smoking the lice out is not familiar to The Herald, it is nevertheless a fact that the blaze was started as a result of the "smokeout" process and resulted as above stated. Although other property was not in imminent danger, the fire department rendered valuable assistance with the new chemical engine, as did they in the Tenth avenue fire, where they saved a barn and other outbuildings that stood within a few feet of the burning residence.

The Sunday morning fire occurred on Saginaw Heights and destroyed the Fosler residence. The house was a mass of flames when first discovered, and despite the fact that the chemical engine was drawn to the scene by an auto in less than five minutes from the time of the alarm, the entire residence and contents were destroyed. A woodshed standing within less than 20 feet of the house was saved by the excellent efforts of the bays of the volunteer fire

department and their service with the chemical. This saved other buildings and the work rendered by the department was highly commendable.

Both the Fosler and Eddinger fires originated at a time and in a manner that plainly indicate incendiarism. Local citizens are as much alarmed over the condition as they were a few months ago when local structures were being destroyed in wholesale lots and in a manner that placed the lives and property of all in a state of jeopardy.

Both the Eddinger and Fosler fires occurred at an hour and in a manner that leave but little room for doubt as to the manner in which they started. Both the Eddinger and Fosler families were absent at the time of the blazes, the Fosters having spent the night in Portland. Both families are well-known and there is not the slightest evidence that they were in any way connected with the fires, and it is a plain case of a fire-bug. It has long been thought that Lents maintained a home for a dastardly animal of that nature and each succeeding month only serves to further substantiate that belief. Robbery is not the motive, and revenge is not to be figured. It is simply a case of where an individual—not a man—has a mania for fires and gloats and enjoys when a home is being destroyed by the treacherous flames. This suspicion has been entertained for many months and is growing each day. Extra police are on duty and special precautions are being enforced, and it will be no surprise if the guilty party is brought before the bar of justice ere long.

The efficient work of the fire department is all that kept all three of the fires from spreading and making a bigger conflagration. In all three fires the chemical engine was brought into good play, and although Lents has owned the engine less than two months it has more than paid for itself. It serves more than many people realize, and the value of it has been greatly underestimated.

## BAND BEGINS WEEKLY CONCERTS

The Lents Concert Band, under the direction of Prof. Thielke, gave their first regular weekly concert Tuesday evening in the Foster road and Main street square. The attendance was not exceptionally large, owing to the fact that the concert had not been announced, but those who heard the selections rendered were highly pleased with the progress of the local organization.

Owing to the fact that the arc light is situated in such a manner that the bank was unable to see with satisfaction, the repertoire was cut short, but by next Tuesday night better lights will have been provided and a good two-hour concert will be rendered.

The concerts will be rendered each week and promise to add greatly to the entertainment line in Lents. Next Tuesday evening, if the weather is good, several hundred people will turn out to hear the various selections and there is no doubt but what the concerts will prove to be highly popular.

That the Lents band will soon become one of the best organizations in the state is the verdict of all, as the excellent direction of Director Thielke and the talent of the members is the best and the organization will soon be one great pride to Lents.

This week a committee representing the band and a committee of business men purchased a fine bass horn for the use of the band. The instrument is of the Buescher manufacture and one of the finest on the market. The instrument was purchased from Siberling & Lucas, a well-known musical firm of Portland, and will be paid for by funds raised from the business men and citizens, and is to remain the property of the business men.

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**WANTED.**  
Names of 1000 Ex-Kansans.  
Address, H. A. Darnall, Lents  
Oregon.