

**FATAL ACCIDENT.**

**Herschel Stump, of Monmouth, Meets an Untimely End.**

**FALLS DOWN AN ELEVATOR SHAFT.**

**Coroner's Jury Brought in a Verdict of Accidental Death.**

The body of Herschel Stump, of Monmouth, who was fatally injured at the Imperial Hotel, Portland, Thursday evening, December 18, arrived at Independence Sunday morning and was buried in the afternoon. The accident by which the young man lost his life was a peculiarly distressing one, the following account of which appeared in the telegram:

As the result of having been hurled down an elevator shaft four stories, Herschel Stump died at six o'clock Friday morning at the Good Samaritan Hospital. The accident happened at 9:30 Thursday evening. Coroner J. P. Finley is investigating, in order to determine if it is necessary to hold an inquest.

Stump went to work last Tuesday, coming from Monmouth. He was 19 years old. W. R. Davis, aged 17 years, the regular night elevator boy, was in charge of the machine when the accident happened. "It was about 9:30," said he, "when the accident happened, I took the bell-boy up to the third floor with some ice water for a guest. I waited until he returned and we went to the fifth floor where a man called us who was changing his room from the fifth to the fourth floor. I do not know his name. He was a short thick man and dark. We went to the fourth floor, where I let the man out. The bell-boy was standing facing me, just to my right, and almost directly in front of the door. The man called back, asking where 416 was. I stuck my head out and told him just around the corner. The lever was in the top notch at

the time. All at once the elevator shot upward and I just had time to jerk in my head. I didn't see what happened to the bell-boy, but heard him exclaim, "Oh!" I think he tried to get out of the door to go after the man and show him his room, and was caught between the top of the door and the cage and thrown into the shaft. I was so excited at the time that I couldn't remember anything, but it now comes back to me. The elevator shot up to the top floor and settled in the safety place and I jumped out. I told the engineer last night that he would find the lever in the safety notch, where it was when the elevator started upward from the fourth."

Night Clerk H. H. Hamilton and several guests were in the corridor and heard the dull thud of Stump's body striking the basement. Engineer Richard Tatum was in the basement, and seeing the boy, rushed upstairs and reported the facts. Drs. A. C. and J. J. Pantou were telephoned to and the injured boy was removed to Good Samaritan hospital. Besides a broken leg, a broken nose and a deep gash in the chin, internal injuries had been sustained.

The hotel people say that the engineer overhauled the elevator during the afternoon and that it was in perfect condition. They think that the boys were playing and became careless. They say the doors opening to the elevator were open.

But Davis says that investigation at the time would prove that only the door on the fourth floor, where the accident happened and the door on the sixth floor, where he got out, were open. He says the elevator shot upward so fast that he could not close the door on the fourth floor more than six inches. He says that after the elevator was fixed yesterday it would not rest when the lever was in the stop-notch, but kept settling so that he had to watch it closely. He said two months ago a man was in the elevator when it dropped from the third floor to the basement with the lever in the stop-notch. He says he reported the fact that

the elevator was not running right several times.

The boy was carefully cross-questioned, but positively denied that he was playing or scuffling with the bell-boy. He admitted he was "chumming" with the other, but said they never fooled in the elevator.

"Accidental death" was the verdict of the coroner's jury empaneled to inquire into the circumstances surrounding the death of Herschel Stump. No blame was attached to any one, but the jurymen believed that the evidence of W. R. Davis, the elevator boy who was running the machine when the accident occurred was not strictly true on one point. The direct cause of death was hemorrhage.



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|                                                                          |                                                                                            |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Leaves Independence for Monmouth and Airlie<br>7:00 a. m.<br>8:00 p. m.  | Leaves Airlie for Monmouth and Independence.<br>9:00 a. m.<br>8:00 p. m.                   |
| Leaves Independence for Monmouth and Dallas<br>11:00 a. m.<br>6:15 p. m. | Leaves Dallas for Monmouth and Independence.<br>1:00 p. m.<br>7:30 "                       |
| Leaves Monmouth for Airlie.<br>7:00 a. m.<br>8:00 p. m.                  | Leaves Monmouth for Independence<br>9:40 a. m.<br>1:20 p. m.<br>2:40 "<br>3:45 "<br>8:00 " |
| Leaves Monmouth for Dallas.<br>11:20 a. m.<br>8:00 p. m.                 | Leaves Independence for Mon.<br>2:05 p. m.                                                 |

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