

# DEATH ENDS PICTURESQUE CAREER OF JOHN W. GATES, PLUNGER

Famous American Millionaire and Mining Man Dies After Lingered Illness—Known World Over as "Bet-a-Million-Gates."

## ORGANIZED WIRE TRUST AND FOUGHT STEEL COMBINE

Held Up Pierpont Morgan and Was a Pirate Among the Wall Street Buccaneers.

PARIS, Aug. 9.—John W. Gates, the American millionaire and mining man died here at 5:15 this morning. Mrs. Gates and her son, Charles G. Gates were present at the end.

The death of "Bet-You-a-Million" John W. Gates, perhaps the best self-advertised multi-millionaire in America, brings to an end a financial and personal career that has probably never been equaled.

Worth probably \$25,000,000 or \$30,000,000 at the time of his death, John W. Gates, "the forgetful man," who stood not in awe of Morgan or Rockefeller or, in fact, the whole combined "Street," wanted the world to know he had money. He wasn't ashamed of it. Once he had his private secretary write to the New York Herald: "Let it appear in your financial page that during the late rise in railroad stocks, J. W. Gates has made between \$3,000,000 and \$4,000,000, principally in Baltimore & Ohio and Union Pacific, both great favorites of his."

### Born in Poverty.

Gates was born in Turner's Junction, Ill., or what is now a part of South Chicago, on May 8 1855. He was as poor as poverty. But, if South Side tradition be true, Gates was an early financier. He farmed "on shares," and usually bought out his partners. He was a most excellent "hoss swapper." When he was 18 he was married to a farmer's daughter.

After running a small hardware and grain business in Turner's Junction, Gates became a drummer, and, he admitted himself he was a "peach." He traveled for Isaac L. Elwood, founder of the barbed wire industry, and introduced barbed wire in Texas, proving a wonderful adept at the art of talking a man into buying. Later he exemplified this in selling out to the United States Steel corporation at a price far beyond the value of his works.

### Becomes Manufacturer.

"I hadn't traveled long before I found more money could be made manufacturing wire than selling it at \$100 a month," he said. With seven others he invested \$2500 in a wire manufacturing company and cleaned up 50 per cent profit a week. Elwood, owner of the patents objected. When they served Gates with legal papers in St. Louis he moved his little plant by ferry into Illinois and made more wire. By the time legal papers reached him he moved back to Missouri. In the end he beat Elwood and the owner of the patents had to make Gates his partner.

By 1892 Gates had consolidated all his holdings into the Consolidated Steel & Wire Co., with \$4,000,000 capital. In 1895 he put \$700,000 into the Illinois Steel Co., and was elected president. In 1898 the Illinois Steel went into the Federal Steel Co., and under the kindly guidance of Roswell P. Flower, Gates and Elwood sold out at a large profit.

That year a wire war started in Pittsburg. Gates and Elwood rushed there and bought a steel wire mill for \$1,000,000. Just 43 seconds later they bought another for \$900,000. Gates jumped a fast train and rushed to Cleveland, where he took over the Cleveland rolling mills, "as a base of operations" for \$5,000,000. Gates and Elwood were "buying mad." Gates went to Massachusetts and bought Elwood went to Cincinnati and bought. In the week between Christmas and New Year they bought \$12,000,000 worth of wire mills.

One week later the American Steel & Wire Co. of New Jersey, capital \$90,000,000, was launched.

### Great Self Advertiser.

Then Gates went into the market. From 1897 to 1901 was his prime. His profits have been swollen by rumor. Gates was a "grandstand" performer; a "self advertiser" of the deepest dye. But nevertheless Gates had to rent a good many safe deposit vaults to hold his securities. In 1898, after a plan between Judge E. H. Gary, Garratt H. TomBrook and Gates to combine steel and wire mills into a great trust, had failed, Gates and Gary organized the Consolidated Steel & Wire Co. of Illinois, Gates taking one-fourth of the capital stock of \$4,000,000. This he later sold out to the American Steel & Wire Co.,

receiving \$3,500,000 for his original investment of \$1,000,000. Gates himself underwrote \$20,000,000 of the stock of the American, admitting that he received a large profit for the underwriting, but forgetting how much it was.

Gates was really forgetful, so he said. Once he carried a check for \$1,250,000 around in his pocket until requested to cash it so books might be balanced. In 1902, after astonishing Europe, Gates came back to New York with barbaric pearls and gold. On his clothes: the spoils of London, he paid \$1500 duty; on a dog collar of pearls and diamonds \$6000. He was going away rejoicing when a collector asked about a \$35,000 pearl necklace. "That's true," said Gates, "I forgot to declare the darned thing." His forgetfulness cost him \$21,000.

### "Forgot" \$2,000,000.

Of the \$90,000,000 stock of the American Steel & Wire Co., \$2,000,000 disappeared and Gates had "forgotten" where it went. He never remembered.

Of late Gates and his son Charley have been investing heavily in Texas oil fields and buying the Standard Oil. Gates was one of the heaviest stockholders in the Republic Steel & Iron Co., which has remained aloof from the steel trust and fought it consistently.

Gates was a thoroughbred sport. He loved horses and horse racing and his bets were always in the thousands. He played poker for immense stakes and was reputed to have lost \$25,000 once on a trip from New York to Chicago.

Gates was an art collector, said to have been the possessor of the finest private collection in the world.

Gates once "went in" for military show and for a time was colonel of Illinois militia. His home was in New York, Chicago and Texas.

Mrs. Gates was Miss Dellora R. Baker of St. Charles' Ill. He is survived by one son, Charles Gilbert Gates, of whom one of the Pulitzer school of journalists once wrote:

### Young Gates a Dazzler.

"The younger Gates was a brilliant and joyous sight. Three diamonds blazed in each suspender buckle. Three more diamonds shone in his negligee shirt front. His cuff buttons glittered with costly baubles. The glamor of his presence overpowered everybody in the office except his father."

Young Gates, whose wife recently secured a divorce, will, it is said, inherit the larger portion of his father's vast estate.

## CONVICTED BANKERS OF IDAHO SEEK RETRIAL

BOISE, Idaho, Aug. 9.—Backed by 14 affidavits making sensational charges against the government for the manner in which evidence was secured against them and alleging the trial jury was tampered with by government agents, William F. Keltienbach and George H. Kester, former president and cashier respectively of the Lewiston National bank, convicted recently of falsification reports to the comptroller of currency, filed a motion for a new trial in the United States district court here today.

Arguments on the motion will be heard by Judge Robert Bean, of Portland, who was presiding judge at the trial.

## Our Correspondents

### KANES CREEK ITEMS.

Mr. and Mrs. Taylor were Central Point visitors one day recently.

Messrs. Mardon and Higinbotham were transacting business at the county seat the forepart of the week.

Orris Crawford and wife of Medford spent several days recently as guest of Orris' parents Mr. and Mrs. Crawford of "Garden Row."

Mrs. Boggis and Mardon were guests of Mrs. Swinden of Galls creek on Thursday.

Mrs. Clineburg has returned home from Cripple Creek, Colo., after a month's visit with her sister.

Elmer Higinbotham and wife accompanied by Mrs. Swinden, spent Monday in Medford on business.

Mr. Arthur Wagner of Medford was down this way one day recently soliciting subscriptions to the Mail Tribune, are sorry today that he lost several subscriptions here by leaving several pasture gates open, thereby causing the neighbors' stock to wander off which caused a good deal of annoyance.

Mr. and Mrs. Rhoten made a hurried business trip to Gold Hill on Saturday.

The play party Saturday night at Mr. Henderson's was a pleasant affair and well attended by the young folks of this neighborhood.

# WANT TO HEAR LONDON TALK

If Writer Comes to This City On His Way to Crater Lake He Will Be Asked by Medford Socialists to Speak.

If Jack London, who is now on his way to Crater lake from the coast in a wagon accompanied by his wife and a Jap cook, visits Medford, he will probably be asked by the socialist local to deliver an address to the public on socialism. Aside from being a clever writer London is also a gifted speaker. An attempt will be made to get in touch with London in advance in order that the address may be advertised. London is expected to arrive in Medford in about a week. He is making a very leisurely trip throughout southern Oregon and is loud in his praises of its climate.

## BAKER AND BRIDE TO HONEYMOON ON ROGUE

Mr. and Mrs. George L. Baker, who were married Monday evening, left Tuesday for Enyarts Rogue River ranch, where they will spend the next two weeks. They are accompanied by Miss Mabel Baker, daughter of Mr. Baker.

The wedding took place at the Presbyterian manse, the Rev. W. F. Shields officiating. It marks the outcome of a pretty romance, and while close friends of both bride and bridegroom had for some time past suspected its existence, the news of the wedding was a general surprise.

Mrs. Baker, formerly Clara Skeel is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. M. Skeel and was reared in Medford. Some ten years ago she married Robert Galloway, a rising young Medford lawyer. The couple moved to Portland where Mr. Galloway died some years ago.

Two years ago Mrs. Galloway went to work in the law office of John F. Logan at Portland. The Baker theatrical enterprises had their headquarters in the same offices, and she quickly made herself invaluable, dividing her time between the law office and theatre headquarters.

A year ago Mr. Baker and his daughter spent their vacation with Mrs. Galloway at Medford, visiting Mr. and Mrs. Skeel.

Mr. Baker is president of the Portland city council and right hand-man of Mayor Rushlight as well as being prominent in theatrical circles. Hopes are indulged in that he will build a new theatre for Medford.

## LANGLEY EXAMINATION GOES OVER TO NEXT WEEK

SAN FRANCISCO, Cal., Aug. 9.—The grand jury's examination of Mrs. Anna Langley who shot and killed her husband James Langley, has been continued until August 15. A number of witnesses were examined yesterday but no indictment was returned.

Mrs. Langley will appear before Judge Deasy tomorrow for a preliminary hearing.

# WANT TO KNOW COURT'S PLANS

From All Sections of the County Demand Is Growing That County Court State Before Election Where Money Will Be Spent.

From all sections of the county comes the demand that the county court before the election is held on the proposed good roads indebtedness prepare a statement to the voters of the county regarding the expenditure of the money and show where the money will be spent. Residents of outlying districts desire to know whether their roads will be fixed with a portion of the money or whether it will all be spent on the floor of the valley. Ashland wants to know whether Woodville is to get the bulk of it and visa versa.

The voters state that it would be easy for the court to adopt some schedule for the expenditure of the money which will assure each portion of the county its share. It is pointed out that the county could be divided into districts and so much of the issue could be pledged to each of these districts. Then there would be no question as to the issue passing when it is voted upon. This is the plan adopted by many California counties, where bond issues passed by large majorities.

### DON'T BE DECEIVED.

## Newbro's Herpicide is the Only Original Remedy

Just because you happen to see or hear the statement somewhere that another preparation will kill the dandruff germ, stop falling hair and is just as good as Herpicide, don't be fooled and allow yourself to be swindled out of your money.

You want Newbro's Herpicide, the remedy that has been tried, has stood the test of time and now has more satisfied users than all other similar preparations combined. An attempt to sell you something else is merely another effort to profit from the good name established by the only genuine dandruff germ destroyer.

Herpicide kills the dandruff germ, and prevents falling hair. It stops itching of the scalp almost instantly.

It may be claimed that other hair remedies will do the same things, but Herpicide really does them. Its years of success prove this.

Send 10c in postage or silver for sample and booklet to The Herpicide Co., Dept. R., Detroit, Mich.

All druggists sell Newbro's Herpicide. Applications may be obtained at good barber shops. Medford Pharmacy are special agents for Medford. One dollar size bottles are guaranteed.

## IS TAXED FOR MONEY HIDDEN IN HIS SAFE

HOQUIAM, Wash., Aug. 9.—E. B. Benn, formerly mayor of Aberdeen,

## SMITH'S APARTMENT HOUSE

South Elverside  
New and Up-to-Date—Modern in every particular, gas cooking, etc. Women and girls must bring references.  
WM. SMITH.

## Lace Curtains Cleaned

We Specialize in Cleaning and Refinishing all Curtains.  
MEDFORD DYE WORKS  
Pacific 1701—Home 16-K

and a relative of ex-Chief of Police Wappenstein of Seattle, who was recently convicted of grafting, decided today that talk is not cheap.

While testifying before the grand jury investigating Wappenstein Benn stated that he carried from five to fifteen thousand dollars in a vault at his home.

The county board of equalization,

as a result, yesterday decided he should pay personal taxes on the hidden money and struck an average of \$4000 against the sum on which he should pay.

NEW YORK, Aug. 9.—Miss Force would run a tremendous risk in marrying Astor who is a typical man of the world." She is offered up as a

sacrifice rather than to be permitted to carry a man of her own age. The New York idea of changing wives every few months is utterly subversive of morality and of common decency. But even more do I abominate unions of old men and young girls." Mrs. Brown, president of New York Federation of Women's clubs.

Best Dress Prints Special	5c	<b>MANN'S</b>	Good Unbleach'd Muslin	6c
Thurs. Only			CENTRAL AVENUE NEAR POSTOFFICE	Thurs. Only

**APRONS**  
Ladies, Misses' and Children's Ready-Made Aprons, Sp'l Value **25c to 98c**

VALUES: **Middy Blouses 98c**  
Very Special

All Wash Goods at Special Prices

Lawns, 15c values	Percales 12 1/2c values	Flaxon, 25c values	Egyptian Tissues, 30c values
10c	10c	16c	19c

Special Bargains for Thursday

All linen table damask	Large huck towel, very special	Children's black hose, while they last	Coral beads, very special
59c	10c	9c	15c

Ladies' Underwear

VESTS	VESTS	VESTS	PANTS
Ladies gauze vests, 25c values, special	25c values, special	Values to 75c, special	Ladies umbrella pants
10c	15c	39c	29c

**LOOK! LOOK! LOOK!**  
Are you looking for good dental work. Now is **THE TIME** to have your teeth attended to, and this is **THE PLACE**, for you get it done better and at less cost than elsewhere. **THE REASON** will be explained to you if you call on me for **FREE** examination and estimate. All work guaranteed. Lady attendant.

22-KARAT GOLD CROWNS ..\$5.00	FULL SET OF TEETH, on rubber plate ..\$7.50
PORCELAIN CROWNS .. \$5.00	BEST SET OF TEETH, on rubber plate ..\$10.00
BRIDGE WORK (per tooth) ..\$5.00	All other work in proportion.
GOLD FILLINGS ..\$1.50 AND UP	PAINLESS EXTRACTION.
SILVER FILLINGS \$1.00 AND UP	

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