

65 Dead, 100 Injured as Trucks Loaded With Dynamite Hit Train

Gomez Palacio, Mexico — (U.P.) — Two trucks loaded with nine tons of dynamite smashed into a crowded passenger and freight train at a crossing Friday night, setting off a tremendous explosion that killed at least 65 persons and injured 100 others.

Authorities feared the toll would rise. They said many of the injured were not expected to live. At least 12 of the dead were children.

Were Racing Trucks

The two drivers apparently were racing their trucks, each loaded with four and one-half tons of the high explosive, and were so intent on their competition they did not see the train. They hit it at full speed.

The explosion tore a gaping hole in the ground and leveled houses near the scene of the blast. The balcony of a movie theater in Gomez Palacio a mile and a half away, collapsed from the force of the explosion and the moviegoers fled in panic but none were injured.

Flung 700 Yards
The engine and all three cars of the mixed passenger and freight train, a local running from Torreon to Chihuahua, were destroyed. The engine of one truck was found 700 yards away. No trace was found of the bodies of the drivers.

All the crewmen aboard the train and most of the passengers were killed. Many of the dead and injured were inhabitants of houses along the tracks.

The scene was like that of a battleground. Bodies and parts of bodies lay scattered among

the devastation when ambulances began arriving from Torreon, eight miles away. Many of the injured lay groaning under piles of wreckage. An accurate count of the dead was difficult because so many of the bodies were destroyed.

Chickens, pigs and burros kept in pens near the houses

were all killed. Many of the injured had to be taken to private homes in Gomez Palacio because the town's hospital quickly filled up.

The accident happened about 10:15 p.m. (E.D.T.). Gomez Palacio is about 250 miles south of Big Bend National Park in Texas. Authorities said the lead truck

smashed into the train just as the train reached the crossing. The second truck, only a few yards behind, followed the first vehicle into the holocaust and exploded seconds later.

Hundreds of cars were stalled on both sides of the crossing and highway crews were dispatched to fill in the giant crater.

Logging, Lumber Industries Praised for Forest Fire Work

The logging and lumber industries, and their individual members, received high praise from state and federal agencies Friday evening for the work done in combating the forest fires in this area the week following Labor day.

Ted Maul, district warden for the state forestry department, said the work of loggers and supervisors was "magnificent," and praised the unquestioning cooperation of anyone who was asked for help, and of those who called offering help.

Jack Wood, supervisor of the Rogue River National forest, seconded Maul's remarks, and said, "I simply don't have the words in my vocabulary to describe the spirit and the cooperation we received during the rough time we had with the fires."

Will Speed Progress
Stewart Moir, Portland, chief forester for the Western Forestry and Conservation association, pointed out that this type of freehanded cooperative work to eradicate fires will speed the arrival of the time when less attention will have to be paid to fires, and more can be devoted to proper forest management.

Dwight Phipps, who will become state forester Oct. 1, said the state had received excellent cooperation in other fire areas, and suggested that the record of agency-industry cooperation in the Rogue valley area is "spreading" to other sections of the state. Phipps came down especially for the meeting, which was the September gathering of the Southern Oregon Conservation and Tree Farm association, held at the Jackson hotel.

Tree Farm Certified

Moir presented Arthur Davies, president of SOCTFA, with two certificates for a new, 200-acre tree farm Davies has established on Forest creek northwest of Jacksonville.

L. L. Simpson, secretary-manager and forester for the association, reported that it has been decided to form a continuing committee of the organization to study its present cooperative fire plan, and to suggest expansion and improvements. Had it not been for the plan, he declared, the fire situation early this month could have been much worse than it was. But with an expanded program, control may be effected in similar future situations more rapidly.

The committee will study communications, transportation, equipment and manpower needs, Simpson said. It will be headed by George Planagan, general manager of Elk Lumber company, and will have federal and state, as well as association, representatives as members.

B. L. Nutting, manager of the Medford corporation, discussed the establishment of a scholarship fund at Oregon State college in memory of the late Floyd Hart, and invited lumber industry men to contribute to it.

E. D. Olsen, of the state industrial accident commission, described plans for the regional safety conference to be held here Dec. 9 and 10, and invited SOCTFA members to participate.

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Two Four-Year-Olds Die in House Blaze

Portland—(U.P.)—Two children died in the gas-filled basement of a flaming Portland home shortly before noon Saturday and seven firemen were overcome by the fumes as they fought to rescue two four-year-old boys.

Dead were Richard (Dick) Emerson, Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Emerson, and Richard (Mickey) Scales, Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Scales.

Fire "Frightening"
Firemen described the fire as "frightening" and said they feared for a while the gas escaping from a broken main in the basement of the Emerson house would blow up the entire neighborhood.

The seven firemen overcome by cooking gas were taken to Providence hospital where oxygen was administered. Doctors said they were in satisfactory condition.

Some 700 spectators crammed into the fire area and hampered rescue attempts. One onlooker

had to be arrested when he persisted in getting in the way of firemen.

Captain Cecil Roth who commanded the first fire company to reach the fire scene said "smoke was pouring out of the house on all sides and we could hear gas rushing from the broken main in the basement. Our first thought was to shut off the gas before the entire neighborhood blew up on us."

And he added, "We couldn't understand why the gas did not explode or catch fire. That was what made it such a frightening situation."

Receiver Named for Homes Foreclosure

Portland — (U.P.) — Mrs. Marcella O'Bryant of Springfield was appointed receiver in a foreclosure action against 26 houses owned by Springfield Homes company Friday.

U. S. Judge Claude McColloch appointed the Springfield real estate agent to collect \$60 to \$70 rent on the houses until they are sold at auction by the U. S. Marshal.

Foreclosure action was taken

Changes in Copco Klamath Contract Slated for Study

Klamath Falls—(U.P.)—Oregon and California Klamath River Commissions, the California Oregon Power Co., and the Bureau of Reclamation will meet next Wednesday in Sacramento to negotiate an extension of possible changes in Copco's contract with the bureau.

Klamath Falls Meeting
Representatives of all four groups met in Klamath Falls Friday when the Sacramento meeting was agreed on. The Friday meeting was in addition to a series of meetings the commissions have been holding in attempt to formulate an interstate compact in use of waters of the Klamath river.

Nelson Reed, chairman of the Oregon Klamath River Commission, said Saturday that his group believes signing of an extended Copco-Bureau contract should not be postponed until the river compact becomes effective. He pointed out that the compact would not become law until approved by both state legislatures and the Congress.

More Facilities Needed
He said the Klamath Falls community needs the additional power facilities proposed by Copco and that their construction is important to the local economy.

There is no reason why the desires of both commissions in regard to protection of future irrigation rights cannot be realized, he added.

Historical Society Given Collection

Portland—(U.P.)—Donation of the M. M. Hazeltine glass negative photographic collection to the Oregon Historical Society was announced Saturday.

The society said donors of the collection were Mr. and Mrs. George Goodbrod, of California. The society said the collection was "invaluable" and was remarkable for its historic value and completeness. Included are scenes of the mining days in Sumpter and Cornucopia, triving Oregon gold rush towns; Baker and Pendleton; San Francisco before the earthquake of 1906; territorial Idaho in the 1880's, Yellowstone Park and Utah and Alaska.

M. M. Hazeltine was a pioneer photographer of Baker. Early photographs on glass negatives have become extremely rare, the society said, and the Hazeltine collection is the second to be added to the society's archives.

by the Federal National Mortgage association.

Vega and Harp of Orpheus

By J. HUGH PRUETT
Astronomer, Extension Division
Oregon Higher Education System

When darkness has fully descended and the twilight of our early autumn days has faded from the heavens, even the casual observer can hardly fail to enthuse over a very brilliant blue-white star that glows almost overhead, or a little west of overhead by 9 p.m.

This is Vega, the star with the Arabic name, and the second in brightness of all stars visible from our latitudes. (Some of the planets are brighter, but they are not stars.)

Name Gradually Changed

Vega is said originally to have been "al-Waqui," which was gradually changed to Vega and then Vega. It is one of the nearer stars. Its distance is 27 light years, or approximately 27 times six trillion miles from us. Were Vega as close to us as our sun, its brilliance would appear about 50 times that of old Sol. Since Vega's heat and light would then be unbearable, it is best admired at a distance.

Due to the precession of the equinoxes, Vega in about 12,000 years hence will be our north star. And what a splendid guide star it will make, although it will not be quite as close to the pole of the sky as is our present Polaris. Polaris is now less than one degree from the pole, and by A.D. 2100 will be within one-half degree of this location. Then it will seemingly move farther from the pole for thousands of

years. When, as now, Vega is high in the evening sky, five dim stars can be seen clustering close to it. Vega and these stars outline the Harp of Orpheus, the great musician of classical mythology. According to the ancient story, so charming was the playing of Orpheus that his music had power over wild beasts, drew stones and trees from the ground and stopped rivers from flowing.

The famed Argonautic Expedition for the recovery of the golden fleece found Orpheus on board the ship. On the way, the vessel passed the island where the sirens sang their enticing songs, and often lured sailors to their death. Some captains tied their men to the masts or poured wax in their ears as they passed the sirens' island, but on the good ship Argo this was not necessary for Orpheus played his harp so beautifully that the alluring nymphs attracted no attention.

Star Becomes Double

One of the little stars nearest Vega becomes a double even through low power opera glasses. With 150-power telescopes, the two stars appear far apart and each in turn becomes a close double. This star, Epsilon Lyrae, is the famous double-double.

Between the two dim stars of the Lyra group, farthest from Vega, fair-sized telescopes reveal the beautiful Ring Nebula, a circle of glowing gas with a star at its center.



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Morgan Asks Removal Of Prineville Demo

Portland—(U.P.)—Democratic State Chairman Howard Morgan Saturday asked Gov. Paul L. Patterson to remove Vernon Burda, a Democrat from Prineville, from the legislative interim committee on election laws.

Backs Baker Man

Morgan suggested Burda be replaced by Lloyd Rea of Baker. The Democratic chairman said that while Burda "is nominally registered as a Democrat" he is regarded within the party as a "tame Democrat who does the bidding of Republicans."

He said Burda was listed as a contributor to the 1954 campaign of Republican Gov. Patterson.

Morgan objected to the make-up of the committee as lopsided in favor of Republicans.

Mann Appointed

Under the resolution approved by the Legislature, Senate President Elmo Smith appointed Sen. Mark Hatfield, and Pat Lonergan, Republicans, to the

committee. House Speaker Ed Geary named Reps. Bob Jensen, Kay Meriwether and E. H. Mann. Mrs. Meriwether is the lone Democrat on the committee.

Gov. Patterson appointed Mrs. Frederic Young, secretary of the Republican State Central Committee, and Burda.

Morgan asked the governor to remove Burda from the commit-

tee and appoint the secretary of the Democratic State Central Committee. That is Rea.



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