

The Evening Herald

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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 1920

WITNESSES TELL VERSIONS OF FIRE

(Continued from Page 1)

sons, was sleeping on a cot on the lower floor. As soon as he was awakened, he ran to the stairway to assist his wife and daughter. Cut off at the front stairway, he rushed outside and ran to the rear of the building. Then he rehearsed the well known story of his efforts to reach his wife's room through the window, only to find that the room was empty, and that his wife and daughter had undoubtedly gone to their death in the flames.

Heard Hysterous Party Enter Hotel

Mr. Bilderback said that owing to the crowded condition of the hotel he, with his two sons, were given cots in a room in the front of the hotel. At his head was a hallway, leading from the outside to the ladies' parlor. It might have been twelve o'clock, according to his statement, when he was aroused by what seemed to be voices of at least three men and one woman, who entered the hallway mentioned and proceeded toward the ladies' parlor. They went toward the northeast part of the hotel, where testimony tended to show the fire started. It is possible, this witness thinks, that the persons he heard were under the influence of liquor. After this occurrence, Mr. Bilderback went to sleep and did not awaken again until aroused by the commotion caused by the fire. As near as he could determine, the fire was coming from both the east and west corners of the back of the building when he first saw it.

Asked about the time this occurred, Mr. Bilderback said that he reached for his watch once, but found that his trousers were on backwards, and that when he finally did learn the time it was about half past three.

Did the "Girls" Receive Warning Letters?

Mr. Bilderback told an indefinite story about hearing bystanders mention anonymous letters received by the "girls" at the hotel, warning them that the hotel would be burned on Labor Day, and that they should leave the building before that time if they valued their lives. It appears that this story came from some mysterious individual called "Shorty," and also that Pierce Combs of this city had heard the same tale. Mr. Combs testified that his wife heard somebody else tell about it, and after all the pertinent testimony relative to it was given it was proved to the satisfaction of everybody present, apparently, that there was

no foundation to the story. Mrs. V. Houston, one of the "girls" mentioned, denied receiving such letters.

No Delay in Telephone Office

Mrs. Hines, night operator in the local telephone station averred that she was "on the job" when the first alarm came in. It came from the Hall hotel, she said, and connection with the fire station was made immediately. About three minutes afterwards, when she supervised the call, she found that it was evidently completed. In the meantime she had received several other phone call notifying her of the fire and connections were made as fast as possible. She knows, positively, she said, that there was no delay in the telephone office, and that if there was any delay it must have been at the station. To the best of her belief the fire station phone was answered immediately.

Night Clerk Carl Coleman, of the Hall hotel, cleared up a misunderstanding by testifying that the local telephone office responded to his call instantly, and that he failed to get any answer from the fire station. Failing to get the station he advised Mr. Uhring to run to the station to give the alarm.

Fire Chief Ambrose said that he answered the first call that came in. This was at 3:35. He aroused the other men in the building, and then drove the truck to the scene of the fire. No time was lost he said.

He laid three lines, but did not man the hose, as it is not his duty to do that work in fire emergencies. Therefore, he was not in position to know whether there was sufficient water pressure at first. The fire had broken through the east end of the hotel when he first saw it. He did not get full pressure until he had laid a line from the hydrant at Third and Main streets.

Was Not Given Relief, Ambrose Says

Asked regarding conditions in the fire department, Chief Ambrose said that he had asked the city council for an additional man, to take the place of a man who had left the department some time ago, but that he was given no relief. He petitioned, for this relief two times, he said. When interrogated relative to the reason for this lack of help, the chief pointedly advised his questioners to ask the city council about it. The inefficiency of the city council, and a lack of funds, the witness stated, probably were the cause of the inadequately equipped fire department. Not a main in town is big enough, continued the chief. Asked whether he thought the water company was responsible for the low pressure Chief Ambrose replied: "Well, there was not enough pressure at first, but there was afterward when it was too late." He knew nothing about the amount of water in the reservoir at the time of the fire, he stated.

James Ayers, a roomer at the hotel about three years, said he had heard about threatening letters. He did not know who sent the letters, nor who the men were that told the story. His evidence was valueless.

Knows There Are Fifteen Bodies

Paul Breitenstein, employed by the county court to recover bodies from the debris, insisted that portions of 15 bodies had been recovered. Eight were taken out of the ruins the first day, in the forenoon, four during the afternoon, and three more the next day. Deputy Coroner McCoppen inquired where the other six bodies were, as he had only nine in the morgue. Mr. Breitenstein reiterated

his statement that there were 15 in all, and backed up his assertion by stating that human bones, however small and few in number, could not possibly be identified as parts of other bodies found several feet away from them.

The witness told about being commissioned to recover the bodies, and about the alleged efforts of the police department to prevent him from taking the bodies from the debris. Mr. Breitenstein laconically told the jury that he instructed the policeman who interfered with him to "go to the devil." It was wrong to permit dead bodies to remain there, he said, chiefly because of sanitary precepts.

Harry Shadrick and his room-mate Sanders told about their experiences in getting out of the hotel. Their evidence was not vital, but was interesting. Sanders told about grasping a woman by the arm as he plunged through the smoke and flames to a back exit. The woman broke away from him, plunged down a stairway, and was lost in the flames. He believes this woman was Miss Marguerite Hanley.

Bert C. Thomas, awakened at his home not far from the hotel, said that he first saw the fire when it appeared to be bursting through a gable in the rear, and coming from the first floor.

Upp Explains Difficulties

In refutation of statements made by Chief Ambrose, Councilman Upp took the stand, and said that it was impossible for the council to hire an assistant for the fire chief because truck drivers and men who understood gas engines could earn better pay in other positions. The council, he said, recognized the need of better fire protection, but maintained that when the council put the question of necessary finances before the people they refused to grant the relief needed. At one time, said Mr. Upp, the members of the city council paid out \$10 each from their own pockets in order to overcome the results of the city's poverty.

Coroner McCoppen asked Mr. Upp what the city did with the money received. Mr. Upp was willing to tell him, but the jury objected to the question as irrelevant, and the audience was thus denied some information which might have relieved the minds of some of them if they could have heard it.

Buildings in this city had been condemned, said Mr. Upp, but the Houston hotel was not included in the list.

This concluded the testimony. Justice of the Peace Offield instructing the jury to meet in the county coroner's office at 9:30 today to return the verdict.

LABOR DAY COMMITTEE WILL CHECK ACCOUNTS

The Labor day committee will conclude its work and render a final report at a special meeting of the central labor council to be held Friday night. A financial report will be rendered, showing a small surplus disposition of which will be made, at the meeting.

The committee desires that any persons holding bills against the celebration present them at once, that payment may be made.

ELY COUPLE ARE MARRIED, LAKEVIEW

Word has been received here of the marriage of Dallis Givans to Tina Thompkins at Lakeview, Tuesday. Both are residents of Bly and have many friends throughout the county.

ROOMER IN NO. 8 ARE ACCOUNTED FOR BY FRIEND

Floyd Oden and Clifford Thompson were the roomers in No. 8 at the Houston hotel, first listed as "unknown." This is according to Mr. Garfield, roomer in No. 11. Clifford and Thompson both escaped and are working in a box factory here.

Star performers representing schools and clubs throughout Michigan are to participate in a big track and field meet to be held at the Michigan State Fair Sunday, Sept. 12.

Arrangements are about concluded for a post-season series between the flag winners in the Central league and the Michigan-Ontario league, following the close of the series on Sept. 12.

The day is not far distant when a boxer who outgrows the standardized weight of his class will have to step into the division next above him, no matter whether he be a world's champion or an obscure second-rater.

On arriving in his native city of Milan, a returned emigrant was promptly arrested for a murder he had committed twenty-seven years before.

Klamath Falls' Finest Ladies' Ready-to-Wear Shop

La Vogue

Odd Fellows' Building
Southwest Corner 5th and Main

Leaders of Fashion For Ladies' Wearing Apparel

Ladies, Your Attention!

Klamath Falls will become on or about September 20th an important link to the chain conducted by La Vogue Stores.

The finest, most up-to-date and complete line of Ladies' Wearing Apparel ever displayed in Klamath Falls will be stocked.

REMEMBER La Vogue Stores have a Purchasing Power of eight stores. Buying in volume is a great factor in reducing high prices.

Watch--Wait for Our Exact Opening Date!

California
—Eight Stores—
Oregon

La Vogue

Odd Fellows' Building S. W. Corner 5th and Main Streets

RELATIVES CLAIM BODY OF ANOTHER FIRE VICTIM

The body of Robert Dawson, one of the victims of the Houston hotel fire, has been claimed by his parents at Albany, Oregon, and was sent there today for burial.

HAD GENIUS FOR INVENTION

Man Who Began Life as a Prairie Sheep Herder Made Most Remarkable Record.

It is probable that Walter Turner was the world's most prolific inventor. Starting life as a shepherd on a prairie sheep ranch in the far West he knew nothing of the mechanics of railway engineering. One day, however, while tending his sheep on the prairie in the neighborhood of a railway, Turner came to where the ruins of a train were scattered, and among the fragments he picked up as a curiosity a vital part of the Westinghouse brake. This he was allowed to carry away. During his lonely life on the prairie he would ponder over the mechanism of this brake. His chance came when, having failed as a sheep farmer, he got a job as a wheel tapper on the railway, ultimately being promoted to the engine shops. A series of inventions, improving brakes patented by the company, led to his further advancement. Mr. Westinghouse, who took him into his works, finally made him the head of the engineering department. Westinghouse patented two hundred inventions, but the shepherd from the prairies patented four hundred. Westinghouse made an air brake that would control fifty railway carriages; Turner improved it till it would control a hundred. When he died it was said that the value of the shepherd's inventions to the world was over thirty-five million dollars in gold.

NEXT JOB IS WHAT COUNTS

Good Thing to Forget What One Has Done, and Look Forward to Something Else.

James J. Hill, who possessed a phenomenal memory, said it is easy to remember things you are interested in.

What to do, therefore, is to discern what things are useful, what things one ought to be interested in, and then forget the others.

That sounds easy, but it isn't easy, as we all know. However, if we try, we may accomplish something. If we don't, we won't.

Let's see, therefore, what are some of the things we ought to forget.

First, and most important of all, forget that brilliant record you made at school or that wonderful sale you made which caused all the boys to talk, or that remarkable piece of work you did which won your raise of pay and promotion.

Forget the big things you did yesterday or last year.

Forget all about the time you topped the list and were made a fuss over.

Forget that you are (in your own eyes) a wonder, a world beater.

Water that has gone over the mill-wheel can grind no more corn.

Forget what you have already done and address all your mind and strength and talent to the next job.—Forbes Magazine (New York).

SALE OF TIMBER KLAMATH INDIAN RESERVATION LITTLE SPRAGUE UNIT

Sealed bids in duplicate, marked outside "Bid Little Sprague Unit," and addressed to the Superintendent, Klamath Indian School, Klamath Agency, Oregon, will be received until 2:00 o'clock P. M., Pacific time, Wednesday, October 27, 1920, timber on about 3,600 acres on for the purchase of the merchantable Sprague River in townships 34 and 35 South, Range 8 East, Willamette Meridian. This unit is estimated at 40,000,000 feet B. M., mostly western yellow pine of which about 5,000,000 feet is on about 480 acres of approved allotments, and as to which separate approved contracts with the Indian owners may probably be made. No bid will be accepted for less than \$4.00 for yellow and sugar pine and incense cedar, and \$1.50 for other species during the period of the contract ending March 31, 1924. Prices subsequent to that date will be fixed by the Commissioner of Indian Affairs for three-year periods. Each bid must state the rate per M that will be paid for each kind of timber during the first contract period ending March 31, 1924, and must be accompanied by a certified check on a solvent National Bank drawn in favor of the Superintendent of the Klamath Indian School in the amount of \$10,000.00. The deposit will be returned to unsuccessful bidders, but retained as liquidated damages if the successful bidder shall fail to execute contract and furnish satisfactory bond for \$15,000.00 within 60 days from the acceptance of his bid. The right is reserved to waive technical defects and to reject any or all bids. For copies of contract, regulations, fuller description of the area, and other information, apply

MARRIAGE LICENSE

A marriage license was issued to M. King Gray and Bertha Gerrich. Mr. Gray has made his home at Odessa with his parents for a number of years with the exception of the years he spent in school in Berkeley, California.

to the Superintendent of the Klamath Indian School, Klamath Agency, Oregon, Washington, D. C., August 10, 1920.

CATO SELLS, Commissioner of Indian Affairs, 124 pub. Aug. 19 Th. & Sat. 12t

MALIN'S
First Firemen's
Grand Ball
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER
11 at the NATIONAL HALL
for the benefit of the new
Fire Department
Music by Malin Orchestra
GOOD TIME FOR
EVERYBODY

OUR SHOE DEPARTMENT

Which, we take pride in announcing, contains one of the largest, classiest and most serviceable shoe stocks with which the people of this city and vicinity have ever been favored, is now open to the public, and we invite you to come in and look it over, whether you buy or not. This department adjoins our grocery department, facing Main street. Competent shoe salesmen will have charge of this department—salesmen who know the necessity of fitting a foot perfectly, and who will provide you with the class of shoe you want or need. We can serve you right.

J. E. Enders & Co.
THE HOUSE OF MERIT

The
CROSSETT
Shoe
"MAKES LIFE'S WALK EASY"



New Fall Styles

now to be seen in our windows

LATEST IN STYLE
LOWEST IN PRICE
LONGEST IN WEAR

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Bradley-Evans Shoe Co.
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