Discussing the possibility of a lynching pa ty in the event the alayer of 10-year-old Charles Mattson is arrested and returned to Tacoma, John M. Potts, deputy sheriff recalled yesterday the lynching of two men in Ellensburg in 1896.

The men who were father and son, were charged with murder.

The son had shot the town hand leader to death and the father brutally stabbed another man in a quarrel over the charge against his son.

The accused slayers were arrested a Sunday afternoon and the afternoon of the following day was passed around word that a lynching party was planned for that night.

I was a young boy and remember how a man came to my father's hanch on horseback and informed him about the lynching party while we were working in the field. My father told the man he would have no part in the affair and after the man left my father told me not tog leave the ramch that night. Lured by the promise of excitement I stole away from the ranch that night.

The lynching pa ty gathered in the bandmaster's hall before converging on the jail in a body of more than 300 men. Ten armed officers were posted around the courthouse which housed the jail. Noticing me lingering in the vicinity the sheriff told me Ihad better go home. I pretended to leave but when themob arrived demanding the prisoners I was nearby, watching.

Not wishing to carry rifles while standing guard around the courthouse the officers hadplaced them on a bed in the sheriff's bedroom in the jail and planned to run in and get them if the mob threatened to overpower them. When the mo arrived at 10 p.m. the leaders ordered the prisoners' release. The officers refused and ordered the excited men to leave but instead the mensurged forward and the officers ran to get

and lo raidom has eliw edd of newly arwell . dirado esos of tevo

lynched men.

The day after the lynching about 14 men, among them business leaders, prominent farmers and a deputy county treasurer were arrested for taking part in the lynching. They remained in jail six weeks without bail pending the opening of court. Numerous threats were made against the prosecuting attorney for issuing the warrants because public sentiment was in favor of the lynching of the two men who had criminal records.

The 14 community leaders were tried and acquitted with the late Henry J. Snively of Yakima as their attorney.

That was the last lynching in this district. For many years after wards the tree on which the men were hung was known as the "tree of justice." Yakima Republic, Jan. 17, 1937.

Much of Yakima's first police system was inaugurated by Capt.

Marshal Scrafford of Seattle

Liggett shot prairie chickens in the sagebrush where St. Joseph & ademy is now located and Jackrabbits "downtown."

he worked 12 to 16 hours a day as marshal and was paid \$75 a month. The night man8s salary was \$60.

He became police sergeant in 1911 when the commission form of government was inaugurated.

One of his uties was to run to the fire bell near the city hall and ring the the bell for volunteer fire department whenever a fire was discovered.

No jay walking problems, unpaved streets, muddy , only places where they could be crossed was corners where board walks were built for pedestrians.

Sheriff Joe Lancaster, called before commissioners at special meeting to explain conduct of Monday night, October, 1910 when he shot up a cresort on Front street kept by Ruby Scott.

County attorney advised the commission they had no authority to ask for the resignation. The sheriff said he was merel y trying to arrest a man who was in the room.

During the shooting the sheriff broke two cuspidors and threatened to shoot the keys off the piano.

The episode is not the first time that the Ruby Scott place was treated to an exhibition of the sheriff's marksmanship. She said the performances were periodi al and that he had been there twice in the last three months and put 15 bullet holes on the floor and ceiling.

Not content with shootingup his favorite resort the sheriff has tried his gun on the furniture of his own office in the courthouse and the county jail bears the marks of hole on the floor and ceiling.

Then they commenced to tortue the inmates. The father was taken to the fire and after refusing to tell where the money was hidden his feet were held in the flames until the flesh was burned to a crisp. Still he refused to reveal the hiding place of his wealth and becoming wild with anger, a knife was plunged into his bosom and in a few moments his agonies were over.

The mother, sister and two of the boys were treated in the same manner but while the horrible butchering was going on, the young man who had ridden to Tombstone managed to unbind the findings and mounting upon a black horse of one of the mureerer's, made his escape.

of course, as whough as we were this story brought tears to our eyes and swearing revenge we gathered our forces, fifty strong, and with the boy for a guide started for the ranch, there to find that his story was only too true.

We held a short consultation and determine to hunt the villains to the death. The trail over which they departed was easy enough to Tollow and we located them that night in a deep gulch in the mountains.

After discovering their camp we concluded not to attack them until moonding midnight. The plans were well laid, the camp surrounded and at 10 o'clock every one of the murders was soundly sleeping, 'ittledreaming of the awful fate that was awaiting them.

Tol barge vibrity It seemed a long time until midnight but at last it came, and from suddenly as she came. Nothing was thought of the matter though a lone the opposite sides of the camp there came the low screech of an whying at the ranch was an uncommon thing. owl, which was the signal for the start. Silently and with cautious rething at the cabin want well for several days but on tread we entered the camp and as weapproached the sleepers, themen by nd stormy night a knock sounded mean the door of thecabin and previous arrangement, paired off. By this time we were standing over of thehouse oven opening the door was knowled to the thesleepers and at the word of command, we pounced upon them and after Tron theleader of a rang of marked men, At this, some a short strugle they were bound hand and foot and strapped over plood thirsty ruffians entered , reseed the insates and the backs of the horses, and then themarch down the canyon commenced. huddled them together in a corner after which they commenced a sear

for the money which they continued for some time but could not find.

at a squaw camp waiting for something to eat.

Simmons told a plausable story about having been to Fort Simcoe for the Fourth and having lost his horses he was footing it back. The men were somewhat suspicious however and kept apart so Mr. Simmons could not get the drop bn them. Going inside the cabin he watched the men through a crack in the door and when they came together he rushed out and ordered them to throw up their hands.

The yunger man readily complied while the older one threw up one hand and reached for his gun with the other. Simmons sent a bullet w whizzing past his *ear which induced him to fully conform with the command. He then made them lock hands and line up while they were searched.

siding some eitht or ten miles east of Wakima . they boldly entered

Only one gun was found and that in the possession of the largest man who gave his name as W lliam Montgomery, aged 25. The other said he was John Milburn, aged 16. They informed Deputy Simmons that when captured they were planning torob 'im and on giving un the money taken from the trainmen one of them remarked: "That's all right. You have a terrible sight of gall, but take it, we can get rlenty more."

Simmons brought his men to the city on the next train and on Monday they wqived extradition and were committed to jail in default of bonds in the sum of \$3,000 each. Montgomery is known to the romon public as "Jersey Bill" and his partner as "Kansas City Kid."

They saddoney are said to be desperate char cters, but it will probably be years before they will do any more train robbing--Yakima Herald, July 10, 1890.

The fortune of begring the game fell to Den Simmons, who in company

with an Indian boy struck the robbers' trail near where the work we-

done and tracked them 17 miles to Tornenish creek where he found his men

the country,

Bill got a fair load of Helena tanglefoot on board one day, not long after the pretty milliner had settled in Helena, and in the course of his remarks he referred in very warm and confident terms to the possibilities in the direction of Mme. Louise. He was promptly informed that he was wide of the mark in his calculations, as it had become an open secret at the otel that the milliner was already in love with Al Worrall. This three threw Bill in a terrible rage. He swore that the statement was a lie and made a big wager that he would come out ahead in the favor of the young woran.

"I'll get hunk with the milli er," he exclaimed," or I'll make Al Worrall crawl."

"Al Worrall was a handsome young Philadelphian and is remembered vet as one of the best amateur athletes that had ever settled in the West. Bill Burr's bravado and boasting remarks soon reched the ears of both Mme Lou'se and Worrall They amused the lady but made Al mad. He threatened in the event of hearing any further remarks of that kind from Bill Burr or any of is friends, that he would stand them on their hads.

The next day was a lively one in Helena for it was Saturday and miners had come in from all sides to make a day of it. Our engineering corps was at the International Saturday afte noon. Al Worrall came into the barroom to see some of the party wich bwhom he was acquainted. Al was a strict teetoler. Ahile he was there Bill Burr walked in with half a dozen of his toughs and striding up to the bar, called all hands to step up and drink. A number of citizens knowing of the presence of Worrall in the saloon naturally supposed there would be a fuss and came into watch the result. Worrall refused to drink because of his temperance habits. Bill worked himself into an ugly fit.

"Any one who won't drink with me" he shouted with an oath," will weigh more than he does now when I get through with him."

again. The mountaineer had sent his bullet plumb between the wretch's shoulders. In less than three minutes from the time Bill issued the invitation to the crowd to drink with him, he and three of of his gang were done for and two of the best citizens of Helena lay dead on the floor. Other citizens werebadly wounded.

An inquest was held, bee deliberations of which occurred just five minutes. The verdict was such that next morning several more of Bill Burr's friends were hanging by the neck from trees at different points Surrounding Helena, none more than a mile away. The the back of each was pinned, in large handwriting, plain enough for the blindest man to see, this warning from the regulators:

"To All Friends of Bill Gurr: Git."

The warning was heeded and that was the last of Jim Daily's notorious gang and the last rule of the desperado in "elena.

afatty a mittaly and otal horizab ti as talest has must The leader of the regulators who accomplished the work was the same to the floor, Bill started to go out. His friends well known judge from the East who conducted the hanging of Daily. The crowded around him and for a terrible moment nobody spoke a word. I mysterious milliner made a great show of mourning for poor Al Worrall for a your miner whohad been quietly sitting by one of the windows cooly res time and then set Helena in commotion by marrying the regulator and level ng a revolver sent a bullet orasbing through Bill Burn judge. This put her at the top notch of society in the town and no one brain, "he cowardly despendent fell dond in his tracks, Instant ever bothered himself thereafter about who she was and where she came from, commenious openad fire unon all the more left in the room. The fire was and nobody ever knew--Yakima Morning Herald, Washington Territory, returned. Two of Bill s gang dronned to the floor before they condu North Yakima, July 11, 1890. reach the door, riddled with balls from outside and in. A trind one, in

burrying to escape, stumbled over an od miner who had remained sitting

fleeing desperado made good his escape from the room and juncing on his horse started at full run down the street. The old winer rose from

his chair live a stot. "e reached behind the door, nulled out an old army

rifle, leveled it at the flying member of the gang and fired. The desperado was 40 rods away. With the crack of the old winer's rifle, he

Blake \$200 to connect a silver tube with his windpipe.

When Harney P. Ruggles rode of the out of San Antonio the next M day, all doubt had vanished from his mind and serenity and confidence. The were in its place. The same and to see the same at a serenity and confidence of the same and the same at a serenity and confidence of the same at the same

Mr. "uggles returned to the scene of his triumphs and took up his movel former work with a vigor which surprised both friends and vigilance."

committée alike of too the bad one was a larguez bein eved bluow ed beebal

He stole horses right and left and sold them openly in the nearest neval market; sw selvand. The state and the state of th

After two weeks the committee again took him in charge, such tags soon hey hung him to they cross army of a telegraph pole and as he as he had escaped before, sat down and waited, beguing the time with

death, but it is not to be concluded that his death came. Seirots trasselq

When he had hung thirty minutes they cut himd down to vimino bein el

He got up from the ground, shook hands all around thanked them in a few brief but well chosen words, got on the leader's horse and of the leader's h

The committee was dumbfounded. They were powerless to render any assistance. They plucked up courage however to make another attemptained a week later. They plucked up courage however to make another attemptained

This time they allowed him to hang all night. The only complaint that to hang Ruggles made when cut down in the morning was that they had disturbed him before he had finished his sleep.

From that time till he was taken ill a week ago, Ruggle's vitage and history has been one of continued prosperity.

He operated all over western Texas, New Mexico and Arizona.

ver 100 different comitgees had him in hand at different times.

Their usual course was to lynch ihim after supper and them retire, to the intention being to take him down in the morning.

Ruggles would help himself down softly after midnight, secure a few good horses and pass on to another community.

Most people say he died in the mountains of starvation but the Mexicans say not. They saw him again.

The night after Vasquez was hanged a white horse galloned up the street to the jail, stood a moment at the door and gave a neigh.

The Mexicans heard in it a call to the dead Vasquez. There came no answer to the horse's challenge and he wheeled about and went as sudden'ly as he came.

Then he turned bandit and followed Vasquez's old trails. Once in a while a man would be found on the road with his body frightfully mutiliated and his flesh hearing the marks of hoofs. Sometimes in the night a white horse would appear at the door of a Mexican cabin in the some lonely spot and neigh. If no answer came he would be off like the wind, but if a man dared show himself the horse would attack him with hoof and teeth and it was seldom the victim escaped.

Time and time again he was shot at, and one Mexican buck was foolhardy enough to try to rope him and met a horrible de th.

The horse bore a charmed life. He became almost asgreata terror to the Mexicans as Vasquez had been to the rich Americans.

If by chance a Mexican's pony got out of the corral and wandered off in search of grass the white horse would find him and enlist him.

First he had one follower, then two, then half a dozen.

No man could kill them and no man dared to attempt to capture them.

With no loads upon their backs they were fleet as the wind and could outstrip the best horse with a rider. The Mexicans named the leader the "White Devil" and said that Vasquez lived again in his horse.

As the years went by and Vasquez became a memory and his exploits the theme for children's stories, the White Devil (Blanca Diable)

and it was not until two days afterwards that they were overtaken.

Three of them were surpsied in the forest twenty miles east of Koslyn by a posse of thirteen men. A battle ensued but they all managed to escape.

Rewards were posted, \$1,00° by the bank and \$1,00° by the governor. Thiel detective agency put men to work.

When the encounter took place near Roslyn three of their horses were abandoned. Photographs of these animals were taken and sent all over the country.

It was in Gilliam county, Ogn. they were identified as belonging to a gang of thieces of the most desperatecharacter.

Further investigation convinced the officers that the men who committed the robbery were Byron Bernard, Tom Kenzie, Cal Hale, George Zackey and Bill Zackety (copy) all of whom make their rendezvous in the mountqins of Gilliam county, and with a number of others have for years kept the law abiding residents of that section terrorized.

They operated not only in eastern Oregon but in Washington and many ranchers attribute the less of horses and cattle to them.

On Mondaymorning of last week a posse of 25 determined men from Oregon and Washington gathered at Portland and took the train to The Dalles. Their purpose was to invade the retreat of the Gilliam county bandits and effect their capture. Their plans worked without any material hitch and on Friday Cal Hale, Tom Kenzie and George Zackery were captured before they could offer resistence. Cashier Abearnethy identified them as the bank robbers. Bill Zacherydadadadadad Zachery, another member of the gang, has been located and it is believed will soon be caught. The only missing man is Byron Bernard and dD tective Sullivan thinks he was one of the Pullman car robbers. Others believe he is the man who was wounded by the sheriff's posser and is in hiding waiting for his fwuunds to heal-Yakima Herald. December 1, 1892.

which was in the mountains near Baker city. As soon as Mr. Snively
had secured this information he obtained the transfer of the
telegraph operator at Ephrata to another station and had J.H.

reer of this city substituted. Mr. feer was provided with a cipher
and kept Mr. Snively and his associates posted on everymove made
by Christianson who constantly had a horse under saddle ready for
any emergency. He was recognized as a dangerous man.

Of Christianson's two com anions, one of them was discharged and the other, Philo Summers keeps the leader company in the county jail at "liensburg." A summer amount of season and aviage of them was discharged and the other season and the county is at the other.

Large Less success was obtained with the Baker city division of the gang, in fact but for the arrest of George McCarty it would have been a fiasco pure and simple. The McCarty's, Tom, Billy and George were the principal ones wanted for the celebrated Walluke, Firefoot and Crape train and bank robbing fame, on whose capture there is more aggregate reward than for any other set of criminals. They are charged with robbing the Summervile bank, the Enterprise bank of Nevada, variousbanks in Wyoming and Colora do, stage coaches and trains and Chief of Police J.F. Farley of Denver is now here to assist in their capture for he has positive information of their being the ones who secured \$21,000 from Banker Moffitt of the city.

A large posse was sent after the McCarty's but they were met who at the doors with cocked Whichesters and a revolrr until Tom and Billy, the leaders, could make their escape. Tom McCarty, when he broke away, was riding a grey orse, arried a Winchester and a revolver and was dressed in a brown suit, square cut; black slouch hat, white shirt without vest and black silk handkerchief around his throat. Billy McCarty was mounted on a sbrrel horse with the white points.

The same was divided into two squade, the second and main one of

their rifles only to find that the night latch on the bedroom door had snapped on, locking them out so they could not get the rifles.

I believe the fact that door had a ccidentally locked averted bloodshed.

As it was, the officers were overpowered without firing ashot.

The mob tried to cut bars on the prisoners' cells withchisels and when they failed attempted to batter down the bars with a railroad rail but that did not succeed. After numero s attempts togreak into the cells the men decided to give up the lynching, put on their coats and stanted to leave.

A blacksmith in the crowd had taken a chis el and started cutting the hinges on the cell doors and finding that the hinges were giving way to the blows he told the men to wait and they could get the accused murderers out of the jail inside of 20 minutes.

The mob returned to its task with renewed efforts and within a few m minutes took the accused men outside and led them up the street. The doomed men were defiant and made no plea that their lives be spared as they were led to their death in the early morning.

They were taken to a place in front of the home of R.B. Wilson then a state representative, where the mod planned to hang them to a telegraph pole. When Wilson appeared and asked that the hanging be executed elsewhere because his wife was sick them mod agreed and took the prisoners to a tree onthe property where now stands the Catholic church.

Asked if he had any last statement to make the son pequested that hismother be notified of the hanging. The man who pulled the ropes by which the mun were hanged reddsedd was offered \$1000 as provided by the stabbed man on his death bed for the manwho hanged his slayer. The volunteer hangman refused the money and asked that it be turned over to some charity. It was given to the wife and mother of the

Yakima Quake 1872

A correspondent at Yakima writes us that that earthquake at that place was quite severe. There were three distinct shocks. The Indians on Rock Island say the mountain at that place rolled down and killed three persons. Onthe Snoqualmie pass the shock was so hard as to shake a man off his feet. At Yakima City the people rushed out of doors in a great state of alarm, if the clubs, revolvers and shot guns thinking the Indians hadm ade a general attack and were tearing up things generally.

- The Dalles Mountaineer, Jan. 1, 1873

Ellensburgh, W.T. March 14, 1885. Ed Farmer.

On Friday morning at one e'clock Ma ch 15th, 1885 a mysterious fire began in the back kitchen of the Valley Hotel in Ellensburgh, Kittitass valley, "ashington "erritary and in less than three hours time consumed the largest and best equipped hotel west of the Columbia river and east of the Cascade range, a hotel built to its prominent dimensions through the enterprise and public spirit of George F. French, brother and company and lately ewned and claimed in litigation by several parties the chief of whom was "alter A. Bull.

It had recently been and run on the Eusean plan with a good restaurant in charge of Frank Ferrest and wife who lose all their effects amounting to about \$700 in theculinary department alone not estimating their individual losses/ of money, coothing and room equipments, economically acquired through incessant and homorable labor.

Much sympathy is express d for Frank Forrest and wife who are again necessitated to begin anew. hey will open a new restaurant in the Mrs. D.J. Schnebly building this wook aided by their eld patrons and the traveling public.

The effice parlers and bedrooms of the Valley Hotel were under the management of the former night watchman and an assistant.

John J. Harbin, a tie maker who it is rumored has a wealthy brother living in California took ledging in the hetel on Thur day night, his room being on the second floor over the kitche. His charred bones were found next day among the ashes. He he gave any previous alarm no one knows it.

The reeley family, a dramatic troupe last money and clothing during the excitement of the fire alarmand their sudden escape from the burning building, and others lost more or less of persaenal

effects.

The following buildings were also consumed by the spread of the flames:

On the epposite side of the street, north, the blacksmith and wagenmaker shop of Jacob Becker, the eldest building in the town and the pieme or shop. All of the blacksmith teels were burned and less of building and tells wheat \$900, no insurance

The fine salesn building on the hetel block, east, preparty of the hetel, valued at \$2,000, no insurance.

he contents and fixtures were ewed by Walter Keyes, who had \$500 insurance. It was known as the Board of Trade saleon.

The Kittitas Browery and Beer Depet of John V. Bloomequist in the building ewned by Reimke Bros and valued at \$700, insured for \$800 \$400.

"djeining this was the neo "ew England house valued at \$2,000, no insurance and owned by "artin Sautter, a carpenter and contractor...

Adjoining the New England Hous was the Arcade Chop house and next to it was the North Pacift saleen, both buildings being ewned by Jack Lyons fully insured and jointly worth \$1,200.

The saleon as was kept in the New England house by Hamlin, who loses lightly on figuo fixtures and bedding.

Less in all estimated at \$25,000

Themerning hours being calm and mild the term was saved grem entire destruction of all its business houses. ... Orin.

The "ashington Farmer, Merch 21, 1885.

Stricken Seattle

The Business Quarter of the Queen City of the Sound in Ruins.

The plucky Seattlites will Rebuild Grander than before--Noble response to the governor's call.

On Thursday afternoon, June 6th, a boiling pot of glue was tipped over in the paint shop of James McGough, at the corner of Front and Madison street, Seattle, starting the fire that swept from existence 64 acres of business blocks with their contents, valued at 15 million dollars. All that portion of the city from Union street, southward for the distance of a mile and from the waterfront eastward for a quarter of a mile is gone. Every buidlding except the Poston block fell a prey to theflames. The wharves are all destroyed excepting three or four smaller ones in the north end of the city. All the principal hotels, including the Occidental, the Brunswick, Arlington and New England; every newspaper excepting the prohibition sheet, the Leader, every bank building the mills, coal bunkers, railroad property and in fact everything burnable within the area mentioned is in ashes.

No news was received here of the disaster until Friday morning and then the reports were so vague that its extent could not be appreciated. About eleven o'clock the following proclamation was received from Mayor Reed:

"The city of Seattle, the pride of Washington, is in ashes. A hurricane of fire swept over the queenly city and she is in ruins. thousands of her citizens are without food or shelter. Nothing can subdue the indomnitable spirt of her people. She will rise again. In her desolation she is not sumpliant but there are homeless people to be sheltered and hungry ones to be fed. I appeal to the great generodd hearted people of this territory, who have generously respo ded to the cry of distress from Johnstown, to heed this appeal for aid to their own

suffering fellow citizens. Subscriptions can be sent to the mayor, Rob

Robert Moran. Miles C. Moore, Governor (Mayornaefference) evadental analysis of the contract o

In a very short time the members of the council were gotten together and on a petition signed by citizens, a relief fund of \$1000 was voted. Subscription papers were then circulated among the businessmen and enough money additional was subscribed to purchase a farload of flour and several tons of beef, bacon, butter and vegetables which were shipped that day. On receipt of the telgraphic notice of Yakima's contribution, Mayor Moran wired Mayor Reed as follows:

"Your noble response to thetidings of our affliction we can can never forget."

The story of the fire as gathered from numerous sources is as follows:

The fire started in the Pontius block, a two story frame building. An alarm was turned in but before the department reched the scene the building was a mass of flames. It was clearly impossible for the building to be saved, but unfortunately it was not realized until much valuable time was lost. Wind was blowing from the southwest and though when the fire started and though it was comparatively calm when the wind increased in velocity as the time went on.

The flames extended down Front street, taking all the frame buildings between Madison and Marion on the west side of the street. On the opposite side stood Frye's block, a magnificient building four stories high and containing the opera house. It was now seen that it was in danger and attention was directed to it, but too late. There was no force of water and the streams did not reach up to the third story window. At about 3:30 it was seen that the building was irrevocably lost.

About the same time the Commercial mill, to the west of the Pontius block, which had previously been secure from the flames, owing to the direction of the wind, caught fire and the combustible material was in flame in an incredibly short space of time. From Commercial mill the fire extended down, taking in the commission houses along the water front. From Marion street it extended down to Columbia and thence to Cherry. Then came the San Francisco store, the handsome Union block in which Judge Lewis was largely interested the buildings of the Gordan and Seattle Hardware comanies and all the fine buildings down to James street. Here the Yesler Leary block succumbed. A strong effort was made to save the Occidental betel but the odds were too great. From that on clear through Comme cial street and down to the bay the course was unimpeded and before many hours had massed by the entire portion of Seattle was nothing but a blackened stretch of ashes and ruins.

After the fire the city was placed under martial law. No liquors were allowed to be sold and the first regiment, N.G.W guarded the city. Tacoma contributed \$20,000; Spokane Falls contributed \$8000, Portland \$10,000 and San Francisco \$10,000 to the relief fund.

The first Seattle paper to reach the Herald after the fire was the Press. The Post -Intelligencer soon followed but both were of diminutive size as every press in the city was destroyed excepting the gob presses.

The quarters of the prostitutes on Washington street were cleaned out by the fire. An effort is being made to prevent them from getting a new foothold in the city. Yakima Herald, June 13, 1889.

The Johnstown Disaster. The Greatest Casualty in the History of America--Thousands of Lives Lost and Millions of Property Destroyed.

The most terrible calamity in the history of the country was visited upon the people of Johnstown, Penn., and other smaller towns in that vicinity on Friday, May 31. The town of Johnstown is at the confluence of the Conemaugh and Stone rivers in the Alleghany mountains standing but a few feet abo ve the level of the river and surrounded on all sides by rugged and precipitous country. About seven miles above the town of Johnstown on the Conemaugh river is situated the Lawrence reservoir, built to supply the Pennsylvania railroad canal, but since it has not been used fo that purpose, has been looked upon as a summer resort. The lake is three miles long by one mile wide and is 150 feet deep. The lower end of the lake was dammed up by an exceedingly massive stone wall over 100 ftet high, measuring 90 feet at the base and 20 feet at the top. At times when the waters have been unusually high, there have been slight overflows that caused the Conemaugh to flood the low lying country, but not sufficiently to cause much damage to property or endanger thelives of the inhabitants. There are two other reservoirs below the lake for the purpose of supplying the city of Johnstown and the cowns of Conemaugh, Southfook and Woodsville that are situated on the banks of the river and are also stations along the Pennsylvania railroad. At the confluence of Stony creek with the Conemaugh river the combined waters take the name of Kis Kiminites river, which flows into the Alleghany river and eventually into the Mississippi. A freshet in the mountains broke the big dam and the mighty, surging wall of water swept down the valley, carrying death and destruction before it. The population of Johnstown and the surrounding towns in that portion of the valley affected by the flood was from 50,000 to 55,000 and when a rushing torrent 50 feet deep swept down the narrow valley it carried cities and

villages before it like shavings on a mountain stream. The two great forces of fire and water, so often opposed, joined to make the succeeding nights and days a scene of indescribable horrow and desolation.

The latest reports make the number of lives lost more than eight thousand while the loss of property is estimated at \$25,000,000. To add to the sickening horrors of the scene, the robbery of thedead seems to have been only too common and quite a number of persons who were engaged in that ghoulish occupation were summarily dealt with. But against the dark background of the awful calamity many acts of heroism stand out in bright relief. First among the heroes must be placed the unknown man who rode on horseback down thevalley to warn people to take to the hills, until he was swept off by the flood. Many other acts were done that make us think better of the race.

At last reports the unidentified dead number upwards of 3500. A thousand men are clearing away the wreckage in search of the missing but the hot sun, pouring down makes the stench unbearable and pneumonis, diptheria and other malignant diseases have made their appearance, adding to the horror of the growation. At this writing the cry is growing to fire the wreckage; that the cause of the living is greater than that of the dead, and in all probability before the Herald reaches its readers this wholesale incineration will have taken place—Yakima Herald, North Yakima, Washingtn Territory, Thursday, June 13, 1889.