

Disaster

The business portion of Ellensburg is in ashes. An accident or an incendiary has struck the thriving metropolis of Kittitas valley a blow which she have occasion to long remember and from which she will not fully recover for years to come.

Ellensburg was a place of marvelous growth and great enterprise. Her people were active and untiring. They left no means untried to advance and build up their town. Every nerve was at its tension. Every inducement was offered to those who would build. The financial institutions were accommodating and the citizens went largely into debt. A splendid little city was builded--a city in advance of the business support that could be given by the Kittitas valley. The businessmen recognized this and they reached out for the rich trade of the Big Bend country and the Conconully mines. How long they could have maintained this trade with the railroad building from Spokane Falls into the coveted territory is a question. The fire however, has decided this. While Ellensburg's is building up and reestablishing her trading houses, the demands of the northern country must be provided for by some other city and business relations thus will be difficult to sever.

The people of Ellensburg have the consolation of the knowledge however that the trade they gained in that direction was not naturally tributary to them and that they attained it only by their energy and push. If they had builded greater in the belief that their northern business relations would have remained with them for long in the future they would have builded without a host. Already T.L. Nixon, the owner of the steamer plying the upper Columbia, although personally a large holder of Ellensburg realty and a boomer of the town, had decided that he would withdraw the boat as it was a losing venture and he could not further shoulder the losses unless the Ellensburgers would come to his relief with a bonus.

That was a strong indication that other points were moving and gaining

the trade, but the main thing to be feared was the Washington Central railroad which had been extended far into the Big Bend and whose contracts have been left for another forty miles which will take the road into the heart of that region that is destined to become one of the greatest, if not greatest grain producing sections of Washington.

Although Ellensburg has experienced a great setback, it will rebuild. The leading businessmen and the largest property holders are already making arrangements to build. It will probably take some time for the lesser tradesmen to replace their wooden houses with brick and many will undoubtedly be forced to sell their holdings but the burnt district will ultimately be covered by a good class of buildings.

Kittitas is a slightly slightly valley and a productive hay and grain country. It will support a goodly sized and thrifty town and that Ellensburg will always be.

Ellensburg has had an honest rival for pre-eminence in Yakima. The rivalry has been in the direction of pushing to the fore, which is commendable in both. Ellensburg has had a great setback and in this she has the sympathy and well-wishes of Yakima and on every hand are heard words of sympathy and sorrow over her misfortune--Yakima Herald, North Yakima, Washington Territory, July 11, 1889.

Ellensburg's Hard Fate. She loses the business portion of the town by fire--a Complete Sweep. Loss about \$2,000,000.

While a large number of the good people of Yakima were merry making at the opera house and the "Yakima" on the night of July 4, a light was observed over the Umpuanum hills in the direction of Ellensburg. Although indistinct at first it soon gathered color and shortly after 11 o'clock the undefined fears of the watchers became a certainty that the misfortune had overtaken our bustling and pushing sister city of the Kittitas valley. Mayor Reed wired Mayor Abrams enquiring if Yakima could be of any assistance and transmitting the sincere sympathy of the people of Yakima at the misfortune which had overtaken Ellensburg.

The fire broke out about 11 o'clock p.m. in the grocery store of J.S. Anthony, situated on Main street between Fourth and Fifth. There had been no fire in the building during the day and it is generally believed that it had incendiary origin. There was a strong west wind blowing at the time and the flames leaped from building to building despite all efforts of the firemen with their hand engine. The water supply was totally inadequate and so great was the heat that the little water that was to be had scarcely neared the flames before it went up in steam.

The firemen, seeing it was useless to longer attempt to stay and engross the fire, turned their attention to saving the goods. Within half an hour the greater portion of four blocks had been consumed. That great fire trap, the Johnson house, early fell a prey to the flames.

There was a ball in progress in the hall on the third floor when the fire commenced and about three hundred people were present and it was only by the good judgment and determination of some leaders

that the hall was cleared without a stampede and a great loss of life.

As it was the building was smoking before all were out. The Ashler House , the Davidson building and Geddis block were all on fire at once and the heat was so intense that even the splendid stone building belonging to Snipes & Abrams could not withstand it and it too soon succumbed. The direction of the fire was southeast and it lapped up Kriedel's I X L store , the Oriental Hotel, Nelson Bennett's store and wholesale establishment of the Lloyd Mercantile company, and the lesser buildings along its course, as if they were so much tinder. At this period the wind veered and the fire took a westward course and soon had Shoudy's new brick and Greger's veneer building in its warm embrace. From here its route was south and east and in less than three hours after its commencement, 10 blocks had been swept out of existence.

The fire started immediately south of the Nash building, a brick block which was commenced over a year ago but never completed, and consumed every building in the business portion of the town excepting the Lunch block, the First National bank building and Blumauer's store. The latter was saved owing to the fortunate circumstance of having shade trees between it and the fire.

Every saloon in town with the exception of one was burned. The saloon that was left had never done much of a business but it picked up trade wonderfully fast up to 10 o'clock in the morning when the mayor blasted the proprietor's hopes by ordering it closed.

The burned district is forty acres in extent and was covered by about two hundred buildings. The loss is stated at two million dollars, of which seven hundred and fifty *Thousand* dollars is the estimated value and one million, two hundred and fifty thousand is the estimated value of the ~~buildings and~~ stock.

These figures are probably an over-estimate but to what extent it is difficult to say. The insurance amounted to three hundred and sixty thousand dollars.

About two hundred and fifty people were rendered homeless and many lost their all. Yakima was the first to respond to the call of the sufferers and a popular subscription of nearly twelve hundred dollars was raised and a car load of provisions and blankets sent to the relief of the distressed.--Yakima Herald, North Yakima, Washington Territory , July 11, 1889.

Disasters.

Fresno, California, suffered from a \$300,000 fire loss .
on the 12th inst. The aggregate insurance was about \$100,000- Yakima
Herald, July 18, 1889.

Last week while a high wind was blowing, the town of Pasco narrowly escaped destruction from fire. The saloon building of Mrs. E. Waters was set on fire from the rear, a sack of shavings having been saturated with coal oil, placed against the building and lighted.

Only the early discovery of the flames and lively work saved the structure, and if it had gone the balance of the town would have gone with it. The sentiment of the people throughout the country is now such that if fire bugs are caught it will be but a short shift for them between this world and the hereafter--
Yakima Herald, July 18, 1889.

The wire which have been burdened of late with accounts of the disastrous fires of Seattle, Vancouver and Ellensburg again were called into requisition Sunday night to chronicle the burning of the business section of Spokane Falls, that splendid and enterprising city of which all the territory felt proud.

The news during the next day was of the most meagre character, owing to the destruction of the telegraph line out of the city. By Tuesday the papers from the Sound gave full accounts. On that day came delegate J.A. Brown, Hil Allen and Frank Dallea, John I. Bogue and J.L. Wilson, hurrying home from the capital to learn the extent of their losses.

Mayor Reed promptly telegraphed Mayor Fred Furth the sympathy of the Yakima over the great disaster and asked for information as to the requirements of the people. The reply came back that the supply of provisions was limited and these articles which it was thought would be most needed were dispatched.

The Tacoma Globe's special says it was the most devastating conflagration that ever occurred in the history of the world, according to the population. It originated at a quarter past 6 o'clock p.m. in the roof of a lodging house on Railroad avenue, the third door west of Post street.

A dead calm prevailed at the time and spectators supposed the firemen would speedily bring the flames under control. This could have been done if proper precautions had been taken but the superintendent of the water works was out of town and for some reason the men in charge failed to respond to the call for more pressure.

The heat created a current of air, and in less than half an hour, the whole block of frame shacks was enveloped in flames and burning shingles and other debris filled the air, igniting several adjacent blocks at the same time. Opposite the block in which the fire originated stood

the Pacific Hotel, one of the handsomest structures in the Northwest. It was soon ablaze.

A high wind prevailed from the southwest and it was evident the entire business portion of the city was in danger. Mayor Furth ordered that the buildings be blown up with giant powder to check the spread of the fire. This order was speedily put into execution and the explosions added to the reign of terror. The picture was weird, grand and awful, as block after block yielded to the demon of destruction. The sky was overcast with black clouds and a strong wind sprang up in the northeast fanning the flames furiously, while an upper current continued to carry the burning timbers in the opposite direction.

Route of the fire. The Grand Hotel, the Frankfurt block, Windsor hotel, Washington block, Eagle Fell block, new granite block, Cushing building, Falls City Opera House, Hyde block, all the banks, in fact every house between Railroad avenue north to the river, and from Lincoln street east to Washington street with the exception of a few buildings in the northwest corner, were destroyed. Meanwhile a sudden change in the direction of the wind carried the fire southward across Railroad avenue and destroyed the Northern Pacific Passenger and freight depots and several cars. The freight depot was a mammoth structure and filled to the roof with merchandise. Very little was saved.

The terrifying shrieks of a dozen locomotives, combined with the war fires, bursting of cartridges, booming of giant powder, hoarse cries of men and piteous shrieks of the women and children. Looking upward a broad and mighty river of flame seemed lined against the jet black sky. The appalling monster held high carnival until about 10 o'clock when with a last mighty crash, the Howard street bridge over the river went down. A boom of logs took fire and shimmered for hours on the crystal surface of the river and many times flying pillars of fire crossed the river, igniting the mammoth lumber and flour mills

that line the streets.

The burnt district comprises 30 blocks. Besides the depots the only brick business blocks left standing are the Crescent block and the American theatre. The schools, churches and hospital were beyond the limit of the burned district and none is lost.

It is impossible to estimate the loss with any degree of accuracy but it will not fall short of \$12,000,000 with an insurance of about one-fourth that amount. Only one casualty has been heard of so far, the victim being Charles Davis, a civil engineer from Billings, Mont. who leaped from the second story window in the Arlington building, attired only in his night robe and was shockingly mangled. He died the next morning.

Every newspaper in the city was wiped out except the Morning Review which was just outside the west limit of the burnt district.

The city superintendent of the water works was roundly censured by the council for neglecting his duty by being away at the time of the fire. The big pumps were not connected and at the time of the fire there was scarcely any pressure. Had there been, the fire could easily have been gotten under control--Yakima Herald, North Yakima, Washington Territory, August 8, 1889.

The losses from fire this year so far have been extraordinary. Although there was an almost entire lack of water supply yet nothing was ever known so disastrous proportionally as the great fires that have descended upon Seattle, Ellensburg and Spokane. The losses paid out on the Pacific Coast by insurance companies during the last half year have been greater than any whole year hitherto, exceeding them by many millions of dollars.

The following figures were kindly furnished by W.L. Gazzem, the insurance agent.

	Premiums	losses
Pacific coast, 1888	\$8,149,700	392696
W.T. Alone	329, 251	163, 152

Insurance companies generally regard the year, 1888 so far as a fair average year . For the year 1889 so far, the losses of the insurance companies on the Pacific Coast were as follows:

Seattle	\$2,573,076
Spokane Falls	2,500,000
Ellensburg	283,015
Bakersfield	324,650
Durango, Col.	
July 1	20,050
Hailey, Idaho	
July 2	75,000
California, June	139,419
Montana, Ariz. Col	
and Utah, June	23,400
Various places in Wash.	
Since June 1	30,000
Coast, previous to June	874,842
Total coast	\$7,023,458.

Seattle Press, August, 1889.

Disasters

Butte City Montana is the latest sufferer from fire. The fire started at noon, September 29, and before it could be controlled had swept away two blocks from the business center of the city. The loss was about \$500,000.-Yakima Herald, Oct 3, 1889.

Yakima Historical

Fire

Yakima , which had so long escaped any serious scorching from fire, came in for a good size dose of it on Sunday evening last when all of the frame buildings on Yakima avenue from Lowe's block to Front street and from the corner to the new city hall building were leveled in ashes.

The fire originated in the restaurant of S. Harris, about 8:30 o'clock and in a short period a dozen buildings were in flames. The fire department worked well and effectual aid was given by citizens.

The night fortunately was quite there being hardly a breath of wind and this fact is largely due to the limited area of the burned district. There were two other factors prominent in staying the spread of the flames, one being S.J. Lowe's splendid three story brick monument and the other the shade trees which lined the streets.

Had it not been for th latter there is no question but what Shardlow and McDaniel's, Steiner's and in fact that whole block would have gone, and it is doubtful if it could have even been confined there.

The row of frame buildings on the south side of Yakima avenue was badly scorched and most of the window glass broken by the heat. It seemed at one time as though nothing could save that quarter and a number of the merchants moved their goods from their stores to the street belong. Lewis, Shardlow and McDaniel and Kirkman refused to permit the removal of their stocks and are consequently better off today than they would otherwise have been.

It is a little uncertain how the fire started, whether the lamp in the kitchen of Harris' restaurant exploded or was knocked from its bracket and broken. Mrs. Harris , who was waiting upon a customer says she thinks she heard something pop but paid no attention to it

until she went into the kitchen and saw the burning oil on the table. She called for help and commenced beating out the flames with some towels when her customer, whose name she gave as Carpenter, rushed in with a bucket of water which he dashed over the flames. That wettled it. The water spread the oil everywhere and the inmates had hardly time to reach the street before the building was enveloped in flames and they were forcing their way into Churchill's.

Two of Churchill's billiard tables were acrried across the street only to be ruined by the heat.

A determined stand wasmade by firemen at Lowe's brick and though it looked at one time the flames were finally arrested. At this point the heat was so intense that the nozzlemen were kept covered by wet blankets to keep from burning. Carpenter Bros. could not stand the threats of the fire and moved a portion of their stock. Some of the goods were damaged and some lost or stolen.

Lowe's block, though on fire two or three times, is not greatly damaged.

W.F. Jones valued his saddlery stock and household fur iture at about two thousand dollars. He carried \$400 insurance on the former and \$100 on the latter. He saved goods invoiving over five hundred dollars.

The building he occupied was owned by Orlando Beck and was not of much value. Beck is ready to put up brick and has already made overtures for S.J. Lowe for a part of his wall.

The building occupied by M.G. Will's as a sallon was built three years ago by Capt. J.H. Thomas and its owners previous tothe fire wer Messrs M J.M. Ashton and J.H. Mitchell of Tacoma. There was a policy of \$1000 on it. The building occupied by J.T. Foster as a meat market was owned by Wayne Field who carried an insurance of \$500.

A short time ago J.P. and F. Wheeler bought the Star coffee house from W.H. Carpenter. They carried no insurance and their loss will amount to \$800. The building was a portion of the George W. Goodwin estate and was one of those brought up from the old town. On it and the adjoining property building occupied by H. Keuchler and a part of the same property where was insurance of \$500.

Mr. Keuchler the jeweler was one of the heaviest losers. He carried a splendid stock valued at \$12,000 of which \$8,000 worth was in the safe. The goods saved are in bad condition. The safe fell on its face and no one doubted but what the contents were all right when it was broken open Wednesday there were many pieces of jewelry damaged and watch movements were ruined.

The loss of S. Harris will amount to three or four hundred dollars. The building was owned by A. Churchill. Mr. Churchill was one of the main losers. He estimates his loss at \$9,000 on which he had \$3,000 insurance.

Theodore Steiner's building, occupied by William Shearer as a barber shop, was a total loss. The building was worth \$1200.

The old Capital restaurant on Front street was owned by Mrs. Carrie H. Core of Roxbell, Ohio. It was insured for \$1000. The building was occupied by J.W. Walters as a restaurant, who saved but little.

T.J.V. Clark's two buildings and general store went the way of their neighbors. Clark estimates his loss at \$3,500.

The losses on the southside of Yakima avenue were reckoned as follows: Shardlow and McDaniel, \$300; Theo Steiner \$300; J.A. Taggard, \$200; Jacob Vernier, \$150; M.B. Kirkman \$500; A.J. Kraudelt \$100; T.J. Redfield \$400. There were a number of other small

losers but their losses mainly resulted from moving.

The new steamer paid for itself Sunday evening. The wisdom of the late council showed out conspicuously in that particular.

Marshal Cook did good work at the fire. He had the water of the ditches under complete control and the supply was ample throughout. He was also alert in guarding exposed property.

Some men took a plaster of paris horse from M.G. Wills' burning saloon building carefully carried it a block and dropped it, breaking it.

R. Strobach found a setting hen in a shed back of T.J.V. Clark's building. Gathering up the eggs he placed them in his hat, passed the hat to some hobo on the outside who threw out the eggs and wore the hat off.

Dr. C.J. Taft was seen on top of his drug store with a sprinkling pot about as large as a pint measure. The spray nozzle was on and the doctor was as gracefully and calmly sprinkling his property as if he had been among the flowers which adorn his windows.

Considerable liquor saved from Churchill's and Wills' was stolen and the rounders were getting well cocked and primed for a night of it when their supply ran out.

Al Churchill found two twenty dollar gold pieces in the ashes of his saloon. The popping of bottles at Churchill's place Sunday night was one of the incidents. It sounded like the fusillade of battle.

The N.P. depot was badly scorched and it was only by means of a good wetting that it was saved from the fire.

Who was it made the proposition to sell the old hand engine. Let's hear no more about it. She proved exceedingly valuable property at the fire and will do to tie into.

Nearly every fire which has happened in Yakima made a Sunday night memorable. The last was on Sunday, the Bartolet residence

was on Sunday, the burning of the Signal office was on Sunday and
the fire that swept away the buildings of E.S. Yeats, Dr. G.J. Hill, T.G.
Redfield and Dr. Morrison was on the Lord's day.

Yakima Herald, Thursday, May 29, 1890.

Disaster

Alex Sinclair received a dispatch today from J.H. Larson of The Dalles, stating that the town had been burned.

A telegram for information elicited the fact that sixteen blocks succumbed to the flames, entailing a loss of \$1,000,000.

The names of some of the losers are as follows: F.L. Skibbe, restaurant; John Larsen, feed yard; Max Vogt, ~~white~~ story brick; Odd Fellows hall and opera house; T.C. Nickelson, two-story brick; Louis Rorden, crocker; Charles Steubling, saloon; Mays and Crowe, hardware, Graham, restaurant; Huntington and Thompson, law office; Jones Bros. groceries; Charles Bayard, real estate; John Pashek, tailor; A.A. Brown, grocer; Chrisman and Carson, grocer; Dandal and Fagan, frame store; Charles Lauer, grocery; Lum Brown. grocery; Tom Ward's livery stable; Knebeck's livery stable; Hood's livery stable, Jackson house; E.P. Fitzgerald's two story brick; two dwelling houses; Mrs. Williams, resident; William Mitchell, resident; P.J. Nichols, residence; Methodist church, Baptist church, one large frame schoolhouse, Fallon's farm implement building and grocery, Gibbons and M Allister, implement and grocery; Judge Condon's residence; Will Condon's residence; Mrs. Juker's residence; A.A. Bonney, residence; butcher shop; Thomas Kelly's residence; Hon F.P. May's residence; Dufur and Watkin's law office; W.H. Wilson's law office; hundreds of people are homeless and the city presents a desolate appearance.

The militia is patrolling the street town and the best of order prevails. The fire burned for five or six hours and the citizens were powerless to stop its progress as the supply of water was inadequate. An engine was dispatched from Portland but the fire was under control when it arrived. The blow will be a heavy one to the town--Yakima Herald, September 3, 1891.

Disasters

The Dalles

The Dalles has been summing up her misfortunes which have been bunched together, give cause for wonder over the grit of her citizens in endeavoring to fight against and overcome such discouraging fatality.

During the history of that city it has suffered from extensive fires in 1866, 1867, 1869, 1870, 1871, 1879, 1880, 1882, 1888, 1891.

In 1871 all buildings excepting one residence was leveled to the ground by fire and in 1879 all business houses east of Washington and North of Third, west of Court and down to the river, were a mass of smouldering ruins.

Added to these terrible disasters the freshets of 1866, 1876, 1880 flooded the town to the court house block on the corner of Third and Court streets. Another such record of misfortune would be difficult to find--Yakima Herald, October 15, 1891.

Disasters

A brief dispatch received here Tuesday afternoon brought meeter particulars of a horrible explosion and consequent heavy loss of life (50) which occurred at the Eoslyn mines about 1:15 that afternoon.

A driver had just come out of the mine when the explosion occurred and he and his mules and car were knocked over and a man a hundred feet away was bruised through effects of the concussion.

The part of the mine where the explosion occurred is a slope 2,500 feet long which runs down at an angle of 20 degrees. There are seven levels and the men were scattered along from the third to the seventh;.

The first bodies found by the rescuing party were about 1500 feet down the slope and as these were badly mutilated and the explosion occurred beyond this point, all hopes of any of the forty-four being alive who were known to be in the mine was abandoned.

The scene outside was a sad one. The miners were mostly married and the white and black families of the unfortunate held vigil at the mouth of the slope notwithstanding that the rain descended all day and all night. When darkness fell a bonfire was built.

The miners have not been employed more than a third of their time during the past winter and their condition was one of from hand to mouth. Their families will be left destitute. Yakima Herald, May 12, 1902.

Sprague, Wash. Aug 3--The entire business portion of Sprague is in ashes, hundreds are homeless tonight and the losses will aggregate a million and a quarter.

The town is almost destitute of food and Mayor Sanderson has sent messengers to the leading cities appealing for aid.

At noon today the fire alarm was sounded for a blaze in Bryant's chop and feed mill, corner of Railroad avenue and 3 street. The department responded quickly but the blaze was quickly fanned into a roaring furnace...As the flames reached the corner of C street they forked one branch going north of the railroad track and consuming in its way the Northern Pacific grain warehouse, the National hotel and the entire row of wooden buildings to the corner. Here it turned off to the Pacific hotel and the row of wooden buildings in the rear of it. From here it jumped to the old Headquarters building and Porak's brewery, totalling destroying it and his residence.

Meanwhile the southern fork consumed on Railroad avenue, the Commercial hotel, the Herbring opera house, the city hall, R. Newman and Co's and the Masonic hall. From here the flames leaped to the buildings west of the car shops and it was impossible to do anything to save the railway buildings.

The fire was checked on the west side by the double brick buildings of the First National bank and Jensen, King and Co, the occupants of the buildings placing wet blankets over the windows and fighting the fires desperately.

Mayor Sanderson arrived and ordered the building of Ben Ettlson on the corner of C and First streets blown up with dynamite. This was done and the entire row of business houses on C street between First and second were saved.

The flames here took a southeasterly direction and destroyed the W.P.

Putnam drug store , the Masonic hall, the county jail, old opera house and the residences of R.R. Jones and E.H. Stanton. The flames were checked here by blowing up the old opera house and the row of trees in front of H.W. Bonne's residence were deluged with water to such an extent that the fire was checked in a westerly direction.

Fully one-fifth of the 3,000 inhabitants of the city lost not only their household goods but most of their wearing apparel.

The excitement was terrific, especially at the time of the burning of the armory of Troop A when the ammunition was discharged and bullets were whizzing out of the windows.

The prisoners in the county jail were released when the fire was about one block away. They did an excellent job in assisting the neighboring business houses. But after the fire was under control they disappeared.

Not over half a dozen business houses are left standing and these include Gehres & Hertrich's general merchandise store, the Sprague roller mills, the First National bank, Jensen, King & Co., and E. Redding and Co. All the newspaper offices in the city with the exception of the Herald were burned out. The postoffice was among the first buildings to go but with commendable enterprise Postmaster Veagher engaged temporary quarters in Gehres & Hertrich's and sent the mails out with only a slight delay.--Yakima Herald, Aug. 8, 1895.

Friday morning Rossland came near being destroyed by fire.

As it was the Clifton hotel, the oldest house in the city and the former home of Ross Thompson, was burned, many of the guests having narrow escapes.

The prompt and cool headed work of the volunteer fire brigade did excellent work and are being congratulated by the citizens.

The blaze started in the Clifton house corner of Columbia avenue and Spokane street. The Clifton is one of the landmarks of Rossland. It was the first hotel built in the city and is conducted by Frank Guse & Co.

Frank Guse estimates his loss at \$2,000. The loss of liquors will probably not exceed \$100. Mrs. L.J. May, proprietor of the Clifton restaurant lost over \$500.

The fire is supposed to have originated in the kitchen by the Chinese cook attempting to build a fire with coal oil.

Mrs. L.A. Wallace, who was rooming and boarding in the house, occupied No. 3, also in the front of the building. She put her water spaniel dog, Tubie out the window upon the porch and followed him in her night clothes. She first threw him to the ground and then jumped herself. She sprained her ankle and bruised her arm. Her clothes, hanging in the room, were nearly destroyed. Mrs. C. Fairbanks and her daughter, Lena, 19, guests in the house were sleeping in one of the rooms at the head of the stairs. Most of their clothing were saved. J.J. Davis, one of the proprietors, almost suffocated and fell down twice in the hall and was carried out. Contractor McPhee jumped out of his bedroom window and escaped with little injury. W.R. Rawlston, another one of the proprietors escaped without injury. Bookkeeper Boynton escaped with his clothes in his arms and dressed in the street.

with the exception of his shoes which he did not take time to get.

Sleeping over the kitchen was Sumner Barker, 19, with ~~two~~ two other young men. The first he knew of the fire it had burned through the floor of their room and set the bedding on fire. All his clothing was burned. His brother, David, saved most of his clothes excepting his shoes--~~Yakima Herald, May 20~~ Rossland Record, May - 1897 (Yakima Herald, May 20)

The burning of the Clifton house at Rossland last week left Mrs. Laura J. May, who conducted the dining room, without resources of any kind and even without clothes.

She carried no insurance and she made her escape from the burning building in her night dress. When her misfortunes became known a subscription paper was circulated and in less than an hour she was in possession of \$125 to relieve her immediate needs--Yakima Herald, May 27, 1897.

Heppner, Ore, June 20-- Developments of the past 24 hours show that the Heppner death list will pass the estimates of the last two days.

Now prominent citizens are beginning to estimate from 250 up. No falling that all of these bodies will be found. Some are washed to the Columbia river forty miles away and some are probably buried in cellar bottoms right in town. There are several shifts of men at work and corpses are being found many miles away. At the rate bodies are being found the death list will easily reach 200.

While the bodies found Thursday and Friday were in horrible condition, many were frozen stiff when brought into the hot sun, a condition rendered possible by their covering of hail. Great banks of frozen hailstones still lie in the drifts with the bodies. "Here people were rolled before a wall of hail during the flood they were stripped naked and their flesh whipped into a solid bruise.

Five carloads of provisions arrived at Lexington for the destitute. Superintendent O'Brien of the Oregon Railroad Navigation company has arrived and hurried five wagons out to load provisions. Trains may reach Heppner by Sunday.

The relief fund has reached \$20,000 and it is estimated that \$40,000 will be sent within the next week.

The Oregon Railroad Navigation company has resumed regular service to Heppner, the track having been repaired Saturday after an interruption of six days. Nine more bodies were received at the morgue during the day, making a total of 168. Some were found below Douglas, a distance of 30 miles.

The Dalles, Ore. June 15--A messenger arrived from Arlington this morning bringing news of a terrible cloudburst at Heppner, Ore.

last night.

A solid wall of water swept down the valley, taking everything before. It is estimated that 500 people lost their lives. When the messenger left Arlington at 1 o'clock this morning the flood had passed and 150 bodies had been recovered. (Heppner a city of 1,500 persons)

The Yakima Herald, June 17 and 24, 1903.

While the bodies found thus far and probably were in horrible condition, many were frozen stiff when brought into the hot sun, a condition rendered possible by their covering of hail. Great banks of frozen hailstones still lie in the drifts with the bodies. Here people were killed by one wall of hail during the flood they were stripped naked and their flesh whiped into a solid mass.

Five carloads of provisions arrived at Lexington for the destitute. Superintendent O'Brien of the Oregon Railroad Navigation company has arrived and hurried five wagons out to load provisions. It rains may reach Heppner by Monday. The relief fund has reached \$20,000 and it is estimated that \$40,000 will be sent within the next week.

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The Dallas, Ore. June 15--A messenger arrived from Arlington this morning bringing news of a terrible cloudburst at Heppner, Ore.

Victoria, B.C. July 23, 1907-The greatest fire in Victoria's history occurred this afternoon, destroying five blocks and many detached buildings involving a loss of a quarter of a million dollars. Starting in an unused boiler shop of a defunct Albion works the fire wiped out the shacks of the tenderloin.

From Store street to the Quadra four blocks eastward and between Herald, Chatham and Pioneer streets scarcely anything escaped.

A poor water pressure handicapped firemen who assisted by soldiers from the garrison and a host of volunteers fought desperately.

Dynamite was secured to blow up the buildings but Fire Chief Watson would not use it. ~~T~~

Puyallup--Yakima Melons Fire

When fire started to burn it was named Puyallup. The name still sticks. Better if it had scorched off and a new one, say Hopville been tacked on.

The town was often called Puyallup or Picallup and the old Hudson Bay men used to call it Peewallup. But it was a good straight American name, for the Indian tribe it was named after had camped around there for thousands of years.

Fire started in the old pioneer livery stable which ran back from its false front on Yellowstone avenue to its lean-to on Tinpot alley and dry timothy hay, so called because Tim Davenport father of Home, the cartoonist, first discovered it growing in Boston Common.

The old bucket brigade was quickly formed but the big livery stable was doomed. No one mourned it. It had been standing in the way of progress. When Pete Belles hotel near by began to scorch and at crackle efforts were redoubled.

By now the flames took the old time Greely advice and started west. Butchershops, drug stores, saloons, candy kitchens, peanut stands, all had their stocks removed by willing hands and stacked up on common ground across the way. Then they let the buildings burn, there was no saving them.

But farther on loomed up the big pioneer general merchandise store with its \$50,000 stock and near it the depot and little bank. These must be saved. Water soaked blankets were spread on the roof of the building beyond this gap and Joe Fernandez and a few other volunteers braved the blistering heat and stayed up there.

The bucket brigade concentrated its efforts on the side walls but the water they threw scorched zizzled and ran off. The building was doomed. On the side track near by stood a car

load of real ripe melons from Yakima. Consigned by a dealer who expected to sell them to Indian hop pickers, their car had just been cut out of a west bound freight and they stood there.

Then one of the workers reached up to the melon car, gathered up a melon and dashed its brains out against the hot side of the building. Half the pulp stuck to the weather boarding. In a second other fire fighters had caught on. They dropped buckets and smashed watermelons against the side of the building that was the pivotal point in saving the town.

The pulp stuck, stuck well. Every watermelon was sacrificed. One of them had more backbone than ten buckets of water and their clinging crust made the walls fire proof until the opposite building burned down. And thus the watermelons saved Puyallup--J.W. Redington in Sunset, August, 1907.

A lamp tipping over in a front room of a house known as 444 in the restricted district started the fire which destroyed one of the city's finest livery barns and practically wiped out the district. The only buildings saved in that section are a few isolated shacks standing on Front street and occupied by negro, Japanese and French women.

Five minutes after the fire started half the district was ablaze and the Home Comfort stables were doomed.

Fire swept rapidly from the 444 to the Little Club, jumped across the alley, destroyed the Exchange, made a ruin of the notorious brick which has secured an unenviable reputation as an opium joint and made short work of the Teddy Bears.

Total loss was estimated at \$25,000.

*also
Our House + The Block*

By a unanimous vote the city council decreed Monday that there shall be no restricted district in North Yakima. The Yakima Herald, June 17, 1908.

Home Comfort

Victoria, Nov. 11—Fire tonight destroyed the interior of the four-story brick of T.N. Hibben & Co. wholesale stationers, entalling a loss of \$100,000.

Rooms of the Conservative Association and Native Sons in the upper floor were fire swept and manuscripts, photographs and records of the British Columbia Pioneer association were destroyed—Yakima Herald, Nov. 15, 1911.

Fire of an undetermined origin swept through Ro za yesterday afternoon with a resultant damage estimated at \$60,000.

The Great Western Silica company's plant, the Northern Pacific depot and the six room residence of R.W. Latham, section foreman, several piles of tires and several hundred feet of the Northern Pacific sidetrack were a total loss. There is practically no insurance.

Efforts of a hastily formed bucket brigade were futile as a high wind swept the flames beyond control in a few moments. Communication between Yakima and Ellensburg ~~have~~ by wire or rail were shot off for more than an hour. Northern Pacific passenger train N_o. 2 was delayed at Rosa for an hour No. 3 was held up at Hillside for the same length of time waiting for N_o. 2.

The Northern Pacific depot was unoccupied. It is not likely it will be rebuilt. The section foreman's house was burned so quickly that Latham was unable to save his furniture or clothing. T.C. Doolittle, president of the Silica company was at the plant with Carl Anderson, foreman, loading a car of silica when the fire broke out.

The company's property was recently appraised at \$55,000 for the purpose of sale according to Doolittle and is in the hands of a receiver. The insurance had lapsed.

The Northern Pacific will begin work at once to rebuild the sidetrack and will also reconstruct Latham's home. E. Donian, railroad laborer still has his home intact although it stood within 40 feet of the silica plant as the wind carried the flames away from his place--Yakima Republic, July 18, 1925.

Wenatchee, Sept. 7-Twelve dead, whose bodies have been recovered
 four known dead still missing, property damage to the amount of
 \$500,000, railroad traffic tied up, tracks washed out at
 the Great Northern terminal, the town of Appleyard practically
 destroyed, hundreds of carloads of apples destroyed and many orchards
 of the valley. This is brief is the story of the worst disaster that
 ever befell this section of the state when a cloudburst in the
 Squillchuck mountains brought disaster in the district Saturday
 afternoon.

Several times as much damage was done by hail and rain among
 the orchards of East Wenatchee and Rock Island as at the
 Appleyard at south Wenatchee.