

DAILY IDAHO PRESS

Wallace, Idaho, Thursday, September 1, 1910.

FUNERAL SERVICES IN FIRE SWEEP HILLS

AMID SCENE OF DESOLATION BODIES OF NINE
FIRE VICTIMS BURIED ON HEADWATERS OF BIG
CREEK

With the bleak fire swept hills as a setting, a party of 10 men stood about newly made graves at the headwaters of Big creek yesterday and with bowed heads listened to the funeral services of the Rev. Mr. Carter of the Congregational church of Wallace over the bodies of eight of the Big creek fire victims, who had been only temporarily buried a week ago, when their bodies first were discovered.

Rev. Mr. Carter accompanied the party sent out by the forestry department to bury the victims of the great disaster. The party was in charge of E. E. Hale, one of the survivors of the Bullion tunnel disaster, in which eight men lost their lives during the fires of 10 days ago. The party left here Monday and Mr. Carter and another one of the party returned last night, the other members remaining over for a day.

On account of the condition of the bodies it was not possible to identify all of them. All of the bodies were given as good a burial as possible under the circumstances. Under the conditions it was an impossibility to bring the bodies out to Wallace for burial.

Mr. Carter says that the fire about Big creek has left a scene of desolation. Where before was one of the most magnificent forests in the United States there is now nothing but a blackened wilderness. Not even a bird hovers over the fire-swept hills of that district. Now and then a butterfly can be seen flitting about, but that is about all of the life in that former beautiful region. The great trees have been uprooted by the wind and cast down by the fires, making it a most dreary looking scene.

Mr. Carter says that the heat of the fires must have been most intense for even the ranges in the cabins have been melted. The homesteads of the settlers have all been ruined.

FUNERAL SERVICES IN FIRE SWEEP HILLS (Cont.)

The men who were found dead in there to escape the falling trees. The hole had been dug by one of the settlers to bury his belongings when he feared that the fire would wipe out his claim. A number of his personal effects, cooking utensils and provisions were found beneath the bodies. They had evidently been placed there just shortly before the men fled there and met their deaths.

SPOKANE HEARS OF CONDITIONS IN FIRE DISTRICT

Advices received by the chamber of commerce from Wallace state that conditions there are well under control, there being plenty of money and supplies on hand. No more assistance will be given Wallace unless the request is made, says the Spokane Chronicle.

Newport is also in good shape, a request received on Monday from the mayor of that city for underclothing being accompanied with the statement that the town is now able to care for its unfortunate. Newport's quick recovery is due in a great measure to the practice of her merchants allowing those burned out to get supplies without demanding money, but waiting until they again gain a foothold.

With the towns of Wallace, Newport and other smaller places taking care of themselves, the Spokane Chamber of Commerce is devoting its attention to the care of those living outside the cities who have lost their all in the fires. There is much suffering to relieve among these people, and as fast as advices are received of these cases, aid is sent.

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PRAISES WORK OF PHONE GIRLS

G. A. MARSHALL, O.R. & N. AGENT,
TELLS OF EXPERIENCE.

Wallace, Idaho, Aug. 31, 1910.

To the Editor of the Idaho Daily Press, Wallace, Idaho.

Dear Sir: In the columns of your valuable paper of the 29th inst. I notice with some astonishment the North Idaho Telephone company has been censured at the instance of the coroner's investigation in relation to the death of a man at the Coeur d'Alene lodging house, in Wallace, during the holocaust on the evening of the 20th instant.

On that eventful night, all must admit the inhabitants of Wallace had their burdens to bear and it seems to me to be lame logic for individuals to reach conclusions after a show of argument has been made, simply because reasoning is based on appearances instead of common sense. Since the recent affliction has been laid upon our community, I have encountered sophists, who may be reasoners, but under the conditions existing, had not a grain of common sense.

Now, in justice to the lady operators of both telephone companies I have to say, between the hours of 6:30 and 10:30 on the 20th instant every request I made upon them was met with admirable promptitude. Repeatedly I had to call for persons whose phone numbers I was unacquainted with, yet in every instance I met with methodical and prompt attention. Between the hours named I venture to say I had several hundred calls made upon me, in fact was besieged and took upon myself to attend to them personally the greater part of the time, and I can say without impartiality the operators were zealous in the extreme. It would have been impossible for them to have been more assiduous, although they must have been laboring under high tension. Instead of a vote of censure it seems to me they are entitled to a vote of thanks for the admirable and devoted manner in which they attended to their duties under such trying conditions.

When the fires were approaching the city with alarming rapidity and threatening destruction to all, I inquired

PRAISES WORK OF PHONE GIRLS (Cont.)

on two or three occasions of the operators if they were not becoming alarmed and was promptly informed, "We will remain at our posts until driven out." Under such unselfishness it is unjust for information to go before the public reflecting upon the rectitude of one of our leading utilities' employees, and I feel sure all unprejudiced people will accord commendation instead of censure.

When writing on this question I wish to say just a word or two about my own immediate assistants. They all retained their equilibrium and worked like heroes. Although heavily handicapped, nevertheless the O.R. & N. with the assistance of its competitor, took every person out of danger's way who desired to go, free of charge. But even, although this is a fact, I have been informed several times that some evil minded busy-body is taking upon himself to criticize my want of action and foresight on this occasion, and he throws out his chest and says I would have done so and so. In regard to such a critic all I have to say is, I had many hundred lives in my hands and although they were not removed out of danger's way in the expeditious manner I had lined up, nevertheless they were safely removed. On the other hand my critic had a handful of papers to take care of and allowed them to be consumed in the flames. How needless comment is in this case. Actions are commendable and worthy of commendation instead of condemnation. I am not a believer in a quack doctor's crusade. Yours faithfully,
G. A. Marshall.

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BOISE HEARS OF WALLACE DISTRESS

CHILDREN'S HOME SUPERINTENDENT TELLS CAPITAL OF CONDITIONS.

Rev. O. P. Christian, superintendent of the Children's Home society, who was sent to northern Idaho as a special representative of Governor Jas. H. Brady to take charge of the relief work in behalf of refugees and sufferers in the forest fires, has returned home. He declares that conditions are even worse than set forth in the press reports, in fact, being almost indescribable. The hospitals are filled to overflowing and distressing scenes are being enacted as the list of casualties grows, says the Boise Capital News.

The fires in the vicinity of Wallace were so hot that fish were coked in the streams, it being necessary to send out a party of citizens to clear the streams of dead bodies of animals, birds, fish and debris, in order to protect the city from even greater loss from pollution of the drinking water. The worst districts were at St. Joe, Avery and Wallace, which were personally visited by Rev. Christian, who found that the great loss of life was due with few exceptions to inexperience in fighting forest fires and through lack of knowledge of the country.

"There is a great deal of destitution all through the burned districts which will grow worse as time goes on," said Rev. Christian. "Many families are homeless with no sources of income except from donations which are now being sent in and it will be but a short time before they are actually in want. Many children have lost one or both parents in the fire. Every effort is being made by the Children's Aid society to keep the families together, if it is possible. In some cases it will be necessary for the society to place the children in the home, but wherever it is possible the family will be kept intact. This work will require an immense amount of funds and I trust the people in the more favored sections of the state will give their hearty support. I have instructed the district superintendent of that section not to allow a single case to suffer if possible, and I am depending upon the people of the state to help us in the work."

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FIGHT 2 MONTHS TO SAVE HOME

CONSTAN PLACE IN DANGER OF
FOREST FIRE ALL THIS TIME.

Frank Constan, father of J. W. Constan, undersheriff, who is in the city from Pine creek, says that his homestead is still saved from the fire, and with the approach of the rainy season he believes that there is now not much danger of the place going up in the flames.

For two months the Constan family has been battling with the forest fires on Pine creek. All this time their place has been in danger of being destroyed. The fire has approached from all directions and at one time it was only 10 feet distant from one of the lines. Unceasing work, though, has kept the fire from doing any damage to the property thus far.

The Constan homestead is on upper Baldy creek, a branch of Pine creek, and none of the settlers on that creek have lost their places from the fire. There are about 14 settlers there.

The Latour creek fire, however, now is threatening the people on upper Baldy. A heavy fire is sweeping Latour and it has come up to the summit and is now causing some worry for fear it may get down into Baldy creek.

SMOKE AT OSBURN.

Fire Is Not Close But Is Watched
All the Time.

OSBURN, Aug. 27.-- The smoke is bad around here and it is impossible to see only a little way. The fires are on the hills near here though not so close as to give much worry. If no wind arises things will be all right.
