

DAILY IDAHO PRESS  
Wallace, Idaho, Monday, August 29, 1910.

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SAYS COUNTRY NEAR BIG ELK LOOKS LIKE  
HELL'S HALF ACRE

Lewiston, Aug. 29. - In a letter received yesterday by Daniel Boice of this city, Frank Lowe, manager of the Big Elk mine, near Saltese, Mont., tells of the destruction of the mill buildings and machinery at the mine and his narrow escape from death. Lowe was formerly a resident of Lewiston and Culdesac and is well known in this section. The letter was written from Missoula, Mont., under the date of August 25 and is as follows:

"This country looks like hell's half acre. Everything went up in smoke. Everything at the mine is gone. I had the machinery and buildings insured so I consider that pretty lucky. Hagan burned. I lost everything I had there. Came pretty nearly being burned to death. You can't realize what a Hades it was -- women and children crying, men cursing and fighting for a place of safety. Wild animals and men ran side by side all looking for the same place -- safety. There have been over one hundred persons found and the Lord only known how many more there are. There were 14 known dead at Grand Forks. There were over 300 people caught in the big Taft tunnel and they had to stay there about three days before relief came. I went a day and a half on a biscuit and a slice of bacon."

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SAYS PHONE GIRLS ARE NOT  
TO BLAME

Manager Boomer gets statements from operators.

The testimony of Mrs. E.W. Stewart given on the witness stand in the coroner's investigation into the death of a man in the Coeur d'Alene lodging house, led the jury to bring in a verdict censuring the North Idaho Telephone Company.

Mrs. Stewart said she had called up central when she first saw the fire and had been told that there was no fire department. She said it was 20 minutes later that the fire department bell rang.

Her story differs from that of J.M. Bellinger who was within a few feet of Mrs. Stewart and saw the fire start under the Whelan office at the same time Mrs. Stewart saw it. He says the blaze spread very quickly and that nothing like 20 minutes elapsed between the time he first saw the blaze and heard the fire bell ring.

Manager G. R. Boomer of the North Idaho has gathered statements from the telephone operators who were on the board Saturday night and submits them as follows, together with a statement from himself:

Wallace, August 26, 1910.

To the Editor of the Wallace Press.

"Noticing the verdict that the coroner's jury has seen fit to issue, and furthermore, that they have censured the North Idaho Telephone Company regarding the answering of a call for the fire department I as manager of the above mentioned company have secured from the operators on duty last Saturday night the following statements. Also to state that I with one of the troublemen in our employ stayed at the exchange from 6 o'clock until 7 o'clock Sunday morning. The operators stayed at their posts of duty until the fire had destroyed our cable in the east end of town. The cable was burned and fell. I knew then that the electric wires probably had fallen also and as the power was not turned off that there was immediate danger of a cross that would kill or injure an operator. I ordered them away from the board and with the lineman started to clear the board of all danger lines by pulling fuses. The electric lights went out soon after this and we then knew that danger from shocks was obliterated. We could not give service until the rack was cleared and the operators were told to leave

SAYS PHONE GIRLS ARE NOT TO BLAME

(Continued)

if they wished. I took them to the depot, gave them money to get out of town on and came back to the office. The lineman, Curtis, and myself then operated the long distance and local board until about 1 o'clock Sunday morning when the operators came back and went to work. As soon as possible Curtis and myself took tools and went up on the hill to clear a circuit to Mallan. While we were working, our man, Wm. Burt, who is stationed at Kellogg arrived, having been ordered up from Kellogg. With this extra assistance we had our toll circuit working to Mallan at 6 o'clock and a line working to Burke and the canyon towns at 9 o'clock. None of our employes left the city without permission. In fact two of them were ordered to go on account of their wives. Our operators acted nobly throughout the trying night; they were not frustrated and deserve praise instead of censure for having remained at their posts doing their duty. The office at Kellogg, Mallan and Murray was kept open all night in order to render any assistance that was possible to their respective towns. Their thought was the good they might be able to do the public with seemingly no thought of their personal danger.

" I hope that you will give this matter the publicity that it deserves.

Yours respectfully,

G.R.Boomer

Manager.

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TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

I wish to state that I have been in the employ of the North Idaho Telephone company for the past year and that I was on duty last Saturday night from 7:30 until told to leave, which was about 10:30 and during that time I remember of having had four calls for the fire department. The first from some resident of Alley A. I asked her if there was a fire, she having previously called the Wallace hotel and the Montana bar and I could tell from her voice that she was drunk and she told me that "it was none of my business," and I refused to call the fire department and she then hung up her receiver. The next call that came in was from the fire (from or to the department) and called for the Boyd residence and I could not make them answer. Later on some one from Boyd's residence called for the fire department and I told them that the department had been trying to get them and then called the

SAYS PHONE GIRLS ARE NOT TO BLAME

(Continued)

department for them. The next call for the department came in later and I could not get them on account of their having left their receiver down. I told the man calling that I could not get the department and he stated "never mind, as it is not important." I had another call later from someone who said, "Give me the fire department right away." I tried to ring them, using three short rings as is usual in case of fire, thinking that the call or ringing could be heard through their hall. After trying several times to ring them, or make them answer, I replied, saying "I can't get them, they left their receiver down." This party did not say anything about a fire but I felt positive from the sound of her voice that there was a fire and then tried to ring Fire Chief Kelly. I could not get him on the line and then again tried to call the fire department but could not get an answer. Immediately after one of the long-distance operators, Miss Welsh, came into our room and said that the Times Building was burning. We were then overwhelmed with calls from all over town wanting to know where the fire was and by others calling for different places. I knew then that the fire bell must have rang and did not attempt to again call the fire department. I was not excited during that time and continued to operate the board until we were told to leave by Mr. Boomer on account of the danger of being electrocuted. After the board was clean of all dangerous lines, we again went back to work by order of Mr. Boomer and I worked until 9 a.m. Sunday morning. (signed) Stella Babin.

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I desire to state that I have been employed by the North Idaho Telephone Company for the past two months and that I was on duty Saturday night last from six until told to leave the board on account of the danger from crossed wires. The only call that I remember of having for the fire department during Saturday night was from some one at the O.R. & N. depot. I could not get the department at that time on account of their having left their receiver off. I felt positive that this was not an alarm of fire because the party calling was not excited. I told them that if they were able to get the department over the other line to tell them to hang up their receiver on our line. I was not excited and did not have time to think of the danger that we or the city was in on account of the rapidity with which the calls came in. We were extremely busy until after the fire had gained great headway in the east end of town. I remember of hearing Miss Babin tell some party that she could not get the fire department because they had left their receiver down. Miss Welsh then came in and said that the Times building was burning. We were then very busy answering calls, informing people where

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(Continued)

the fire was and putting up various connections. I am positive that none of our operators ever answered anybody stating that "there is no fire department." We were all alert and expecting an alarm of fire and when the department was called we tried our best to make them answer.

(Signed) Pauline Holt

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To Whom it May Concern:

I, the undersigned, state that I have been in the employ of North Idaho Telephone Company for the past eight months and that I was working on their switchboard, as operator, on last Saturday night between the hours of 6 and 10 o'clock, and, furthermore, that I did not receive any calls that evening for the fire department.

(Signed) Jessie Cohagen

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AGED MAN LOSES ALL.

John Barrett of Taft, Mont., the oldest fire refugee yet to appear in Spokane, sought and obtained help from the Associated Charities today.

Barrett, 88 years old, had a little home near Taft. It was wiped out when the forest fires swept toward Taft Sunday and the old man was barely able to escape with his life.

He had a brother, George Barrett, whom he had last heard of in Spokane. Through Missoula friends he was enabled to come here, although he was not able to save a cent from the fire. Coming here Friday, however, he was unable to find his brother. This morning his funds ran out and he applied to Miss Marie Hornberg, resident nurse of the Associated Charities. She made arrangements to have Barrett sent to Seattle, where he has friends who will care for him.

Numerous requests for aid were made to the Associated Charities Friday. Today several appealed for help. For this purpose the money collected by the Chamber of Commerce is being used, the regular revenues of the Associated Charities being devoted entirely to the relieving of the city's own indigent.

"H. D. Krause of Wallace should have a Carnegie medal for bravery, declared Councilman Peter Nelson, official emissary of the city and the chamber of commerce, who returned from Wallace Friday night.

Krause was with the fire fighters on Big creek," said Councilman Nelson today, making a partial report to Mayor H.S. Pratt, and R. H. Hughes of the chamber. "Now he lies at the Hope hospital in Wallace with congestion of the lungs. The doctors have some hopes of pulling him through.

"The fire struck Big creek Saturday afternoon. Some of the men were able to save themselves by lying in the water, others were injured, many died. Krause lay in the shall water, which only partially covered him and kept turning over and over to keep his clothing wet while the flames roared overhead.

"When the fire was over he immediately started for Wallace. He was on the road and without food, partly burned, all of Saturday night, all day Sunday, all Sunday night and up to 10 o'clock Monday morning. The minute he arrived at Wallace he notified them of the disaster and tired and hungry as he was, at once started back with the rescue party.

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AGED MAN LOSES ALL

(Continued)

"He helped them bring in the injured and dead, working like a Trojan.

"When he came back the second time Krause had congestion of the lungs and a raging fever. His temperature was 104. He was at once taken to the Hope hospital, where he now lies between life and death. To my mind this was one of the most heroic actions of which I ever heard. I should certainly be in favor of taking steps to have him decorated with a Carnegie medal if he lives.

"The great need at Wallace now seems to be nurses," continued Nelson. "At the Wallace hospital, for instance, where there are now 35 fire victims, most of them terribly burned and many blinded, the nurses are worn out with their labors.

"I turned over \$1000 to the Wallace relief committee. The Wallace ~~hospital, for instance, where there are now 35 fire victims, most of them terribly burned and many blinded, the nurses are worn out with their labors.~~ people hope to use \$20,000 for relief work. Boise has already contributed \$2000. Barney O'Neil has given \$1000. Spokane \$1000 and Wallace lodges over \$1000. Merchants and banks all over the northwest are also making liberal donations."

Councilman Nelson will make his official report to the chamber of commerce at its meeting next Tuesday.

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### SANDBAR SAVES HALM'S PARTY

Stay there with plenty of food and water

Missoula, Aug. 29.-- Deputy Supervisor Roscoe Haines of the Lolo National Forest came into Missoula yesterday afternoon with news of the rescue of Joseph B. Halm and his party, who were, for nearly a week, thought to have been burned in the country near the headwaters of the St. Joe. Haines with two men started out from Iron Mountain last Tuesday in search of the men and got back Friday night with the good news that all were safe.

It appears that Ranger Halm--who is, by the way, a husky athlete from Washington State University who has in the past astonished Missoula people by his performances with the shot and hammer--and his party had about the easiest time that a bunch of men mourned as dead by half a nation ever has experienced. They were not in any great danger at any time during the fire and have been slowly working their way out to civilization ever since the fire passed them.

Haines left the party the day before the fire broke out and went into Iron Mountain to supervise the work of other crews on the forest. After he left them, it appears, the men kept at work building a trail along Deadhorse creek. They were aware of the fact, however, that the fire in the neighborhood was dangerous and so Halm kept a man on top of a hill watching the progress of the fire. When the hurricane came this sentinel came running down to the camp and cried, "Grab your stuff and run for your lives."

In the creek near where the men were working was a sandbar and out to this the men went, carrying food and bedding. There they stayed through the fire. Always with plenty of food and water and so secure that one of the men even took a picture of the fearful blaze as it swept down the hillside and along the banks of the stream.

The men lost their horses, however, for in the rush to safety they were forgotten and were soon cut off and burned. Haines stated that none of the animals had gotten more than a couple of rods from the camp so fierce had been the onrush of the flames.

As soon as the fire had passed the men began their homeward journey. The wind had torn trees up by the roots and laid them flat on the ground and the trails were impassable. With axes, however, the party kept at work, part of the men carrying the food and equipment for a time and letting the

### SANDBAR SAVES HALM'S PARTY

(Continued)

rest work with the axes. They cut their way through fallen timber for 20 miles.

After Haines left Iron Mountain in search of the party, he pushed ahead toward the head of Cedar creek, where he thought the men would most naturally turn in case of trouble. He had two men and two horses, picked up in a hurry, and one of the men was drunk and inefficient. He left them at McDonald's ranch on Cedar creek and went down Sherlock creek in the direction of the point where he had left the crew. Four miles from the summit he met them.

"I was sure glad to see them," he said. "And they were glad to see me. When I found them all safe I was tickled to death and could hardly force myself to leave them, I had to push on, however, and turned at once and started back for Iron Mountain with the news."

Haines was apparently tired when he made his report last night, but the good tidings that he carried more than buoyed him up and there was no look of weariness in his eyes. The crew under Ranger Halm will probably reach Iron Mountain today.

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### CALLS WALLACE WOMEN HEROINES

Railroad man says some of the men stampeded.

SPOKANE, Aug. 29.--"The women of Wallace were the heroines of the awful catastrophe which made a holocaust of that unfortunate city," said H.C. Oliver, general freight agent of the O.R. & N. Company, who has just returned from the burned city. "The blaze, which made cowards of many men, turned the women into saviors and they deserve the greatest share of the praise due to the people of Wallace.

"The rush to escape from the city when the first sheets of flame were driven up the valley was indescribable. Thousands crowded into railway cars build for hundreds. Men, seemingly crazed, pulled women and children from their places and boarded the coaches.

"But it was the women who closed up the homes, packed up provisions and prepared changes of clothing for the fugitives. It was the women who nursed the first injured and saved dozens of lives."

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### FIRE FIGHTERS BRING SHERIFF

Survivors fill up on liquor and cause trouble.

Sheriff Davis Graham of Missoula went to Saltese and will look into the situation concerning the preservation of law and order at that place. It had been rumored that a big gang of fire fighters had reached the burg and were making a little too merry to suit the more law-abiding citizens. The sheriff will investigate the matter and if necessary appoint a sufficient number of deputies for a time to handle the situation and give every protection to the people of that section of the country.

From several sections of the burned over country reports have also come of numerous acts of vandalism in the wake of the fire. One or two instances buildings that were spared by the flames but which contained the effects and household goods of the people who were forced to flee from the flames have been looted and after the goods had been rifled the buildings were fired. This matter will also be given the careful consideration of Sheriff Graham and special officers may be put into the field to guard property until the return of its owners.

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### SYMPATHY FOR SUFFERERS

The tide of sympathy on the part of every citizen of Idaho goes out to those who have suffered loss by the fires that are still raging in the northern part of the state, especially to those who have lost friends in the devouring flames.

While Idaho had a number of forest fires before, there have been none that have raged so furiously and have proved so destructive as those of the past few weeks.

Whole villages wiped out; the people fleeing for their lives; 50 lives lost in the timbers of the north, where the flames swooped on like the march of demons; buildings destroyed, and whole towns set back years in progress and prosperity.

There are no terrors quite so fierce and so much to be dreaded as when fire breaks down all barriers of restraint and goes forth upon its march of destruction.

The old question as to which is the more destructive element, fire or water, has not been settled yet, notwithstanding all the debates that have taken place on that subject, but fire certainly has a terror for people that blanches the cheek and almost paralyzes human action.

And when it swoops down from the mountains as it did at Wallace the other day, coming in on vast billows of flame, coming suddenly like a thief in the night, defying the efforts of hundreds to stay its onward march, rushing madly forward, devouring business blocks and homes and pausing not until millions of dollars of property is laid waste and hundreds of lives are lost in heroic efforts to check the flames, it is a spectacle that carries an intense sadness. People read of the heroic deeds of the brave foresters and citizens, some of whom gave up their lives in fighting the fires and whose charred remains lie uncoined in the gulches and upon the crests of the mountains where the pines once waved their evergreen banners--deeds of heroism equal to those of Balaklava--and instinctively pay tribute to them. They will watch with intense interest the struggle that will soon build those structures that have been burned down and restore again prosperity to the waste places, and bid them all hope and cheer.

To those who mourn for friends who lost their lives and property, every one who has a heart to feel sends forth sincere sympathy.

SYMPATHY FOR SUFFERERS  
(Continued)

Such scenes of terror as the northern part of the state has but recently passed through and which large sections of other states have passed through, will prompt a vigilance more sleepless than ever before in preventing forest fires, and will result in a better organization along all lines in fighting them, should they again break out.-- Statesman, Boise.

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MISSOULA GLAD OF AID

The refugees are going home; outgoing trains are taking them back to their abiding places or, in instances, to the spots where these abiding places stood a short week ago, says the Missoulian. To most of them, happily, the return will be filled with thanksgiving for their homes were spared. Others will find but the heaps of ashes that mark the sites of their houses. But all of them are turning their faces toward the back trail with the determination which is characteristic of the west and they will make the best of whatever they find when they reach the end of their journey. Missoula is glad it was in her power to render some assistance to these people. If, perchance, a similar condition should rise again, these people know where to come and they have learned that they are welcome. They take with them the best wishes of the city which has been their temporary home for a week. Missoula hopes that their homes will rise from the ashes and that prosperity will attend their efforts. They are people of the right sort and deserve good fortunes.

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### BEAR CHASES FIRE FIGHTERS

Mother bruin takes after firemen and they hurry away.

George Work and J. W. Fallaine, who have been employed on the Graham creek fire, had an adventure with a bear one day last week which they do not care to repeat. While on the trail they chanced upon a small cub. They tried to capture the animal and while rushing after it they were surprised to see the mother bear come charging down the trail in answer to the cub's cries of distress.

The fire fighters were only armed with mattocks and they did not care to fight the bear with these, so they started to beat the bear for camp. They say that the bear was right on their heels for a considerable distance and they thought that every moment they would be knocked down and killed. They do not know how far the bear chased them because they did not stop to look.

They say that the bears in that section have become much in evidence since the late fires. Much of their food has been destroyed and they are now to be seen about the camps frequently.

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### BALLOONIST AND WIFE FLEE FIRE STOCKING FEET

Frank Brooks, the balloonist, who was in Wallace today, said that his homestead on Pine creek was burned last Saturday night and that he and his wife were forced to flee down the creek with their shoes in their hands.

"One side of Pine creek is burned from the head to within three miles of the mouth," Mr. Brooks said today. "The other side is burned from the head to within about seven miles of the mouth."

Mr. Brooks says that he has a homestead there and that he intends to stay with it, notwithstanding the fire. For many weeks he kept the Pine creek fire away from his home, but the wind whipped the fire beyond control Saturday.

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### TWO WOMEN STAY BY SALTESE TOWN

They remain and aid the men fighting fire.

Passengers on the Missoula train yesterday tell of the great devastation that has been wrought by the forest fires of Saturday and Sunday, the territory from Mallan to St. Regis being a barren waste where formerly in places there were fine growths of timber. In some spots the timber has not been destroyed, but there are only small spaces where the flames have jumped when being driven by the great wind that accompanied the fire.

Packer creek with its fine bodies of timber has been laid bare from its head to its mouth. The timber has been burned from Saltese to Thompson Falls, a distance of 20 miles. This fire is a part of the St. Joe fire and it has traversed a territory more than 20 miles south of Saltese. How far beyond Thompson Falls it has run is unknown. So far as is known the fire has extended at least 50 miles from north to south.

How Saltese escaped is one of the many wonders of the great fire. Trees were burned to the very doors of the houses in the town. All of the men who did not desert the town remained and fought the flames all of Sunday night. The houses were kept wet down and this prevented them from getting on fire. The flames leaped across the houses and ignited the trees on the other side of town and continued on their path of destruction, but left the town unharmed. Some cabins in the outskirts of the town were burned, but they were not of much value.

Only two women remained in town Sunday night, Mrs. Love and Mrs. Broughton. They worked with the men and carried water all night long. Huge trees were uprooted in the back yards of some of the houses by the great wind storm that prevailed during the fire.

Mrs. Richard Daxon of Wallace was one of a party who spent many hours in the tunnel on the Bryan property. The flume on the property finally was broken and the water was allowed to run down the mountainside and stopped the approach of the flames.

TWO WOMEN STAY BY SATTLESTE TOWN

(Continued)

W. Adams, believing that the party would be cut off when the great fire started, took a team to Saltese and went into the mountains after them. So quickly did the flames travel that he was forced to leave his horses in order to escape with his life. The party was huckleberrying in the mountains.

Ted Prichard, a prospector in that neighborhood, had a narrow escape. He fled for safety to the Last Chance tunnel. He had his dog with him and took the animal in with him. For many hours he lay with his face on the floor of the tunnel. He left the tunnel finally in a weakened condition. The dog, though, died. Prichard was not able to keep the dog's face on the floor of the tunnel.

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WHITE MEN BREAK NEGRO FIRE  
FIGHTERS AT CRAPS

After black men lost their money they gamble for matches and tobacco on Clearwater.

"I had the black fire fighting brigade with me," said Con Faircloth this morning, who was just in from the Clearwater forest reserve, where he had been with a force of 50 men the last few weeks fighting the great fires in that section.

"In my force of 50 men 14 were negroes, who were recruited for fire fighting duty at Butte and other Montana towns. There were no better fire fighters picked up anywhere than the negroes. They worked willingly during the day and at night they made the mountain echo with their songs. I never heard such singing in all my life.

"They began shooting craps around the camp fires in the evening but some white men won all of their money and the negroes spent the rest of the time shooting craps for matches. Frequently they would remain up late in shaking dice for a smoke, chew of tobacco or a match.

"The papers said that these men were a bad lot, but I did not find them so. Of the 15 negroes who were sent out on the fire line only one was a dope fiend and he did not leave Avery. His name was "Sunny Jim." What do you know about that?"

"We were about 55 miles from a railroad way up the north fork of the Clearwater river. We thought that we had the fire under control, especially when it snowed one night, but the wind of Saturday was too much for us. We got out with our pack horses and did not lose anything.

"There were some women homesteaders at Forty Nine Meadows and we brought them out with us. They were Mrs. Durham and her daughter Mabel, Miss Adam and Miss Flowers. We told them that all of the men had left the country and that they had better come with us. They did not seem to be much frightened at that time.

"I came in with Miss Annie Cochran, who was interested

WHITE MEN BREAK NEGRO FIRE  
FIGHTERS AT CRAPS

(Continued)

with Tim Kelly for so long in properties not far from Avery. She is 68 years of age. She was forced to spend a day and a night in a tunnel on account of the fires. She does not seem to be suffering any ill effects from her experience.

"There has been a mighty tough element at Avery since all of the fire fighters were driven out of the woods by the fires. While I was putting Miss Cochrane on the train I had a pair of digging shoes tied onto my grip and one of these hoboes rushed up, grabbed my shoes and dashed away with them. One of the negro soldiers on duty chased the fellow but he got away from him in the dark.

"There has been some warm times at Avery, but the soldiers rounded up about 200 of the toughs, put them in box cars and sent them out of the country. There was martial law in Avery. The saloons were closed and the soldiers were in charge of everything. Since the 200 men were shipped out the saloons have been allowed to open again.

"The fire on the Clearwater is now at least 100 miles long. It is burning for its entire length and is destroying some of the finest bodies of timber in the world. There are white pine trees in that section 200 feet high and this kind of a tree is not uncommon.

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### BURNED CANYONS ATTRACT MANY

Scores travel up Placer creek to see fire devastation.

Scores of persons journeyed up Placer creek yesterday to view the damage that had been wrought by the forest fire and all were astonished to see what havoc had been done. So great has been the destruction it seemed to all that they were journeying up an unknown canyon, all of the old familiar sights and scenes having been wiped out. Those who went up the west fork of Placer creek say that that branch of the creek is even worse than the other.

John Berg, who was busy last week with a crew in cleaning out the streams and who went to the heads of all of the branches say that hundreds of dead fish have been found, but that no other dead animals were found in any of the streams. Some dead rabbits and pheasants were found but they were not in the creek.

Persons who were burned out in the Wallace fire of Saturday night were busy digging in the ruins yesterday for valuables. On Residence and Hotel streets little of value could be found in the ruins, everything having been wiped out by the fire. In one of the houses yesterday some melted gold was found.

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ONE ADDED TO DEATH LIST; NOW MAKES 79

Body of Con Roberts, one of Pattison party found on Headwater's of Sherlock Creek by Forestry men.

Another dead man has been found in the forests of this district and the death list now amounts to 79, including the fatalities at Wallace a week ago Saturday night.

Supervisor Weigle received word today of the finding of the body of Con Roberts, one of the Pattison party, on the headwaters of Sherlock creek. Roberts refused to remain with the Pattison party while they were fleeing from the fires and in spite of their entreaties he left the others. Forestry employees found his body. A pack train of horses is going into that section from Iron Mountain to bring out some government supplies that were not consumed in the fire and this party will bring out the body of Roberts.

Mr. Weigle said this morning that so far as the office knew there were no others missing among the fire fighters, but that on account of the character of the men employed, and the manner in which many of them quit work on the firing line at a moment's notice and without warning, it is difficult to tell if there are any missing from the parties. It will be some time before this can be checked definitely. All of the parties, though, are safe.

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BRING 5 BODIES HERE FOR BURIAL

Five bodies from the Bullion disaster will be brought into Wallace tonight and will be buried here. A party was sent to the mine yesterday by Supervisor Weigle to bring out the five remaining bodies. Three of the bodies of the eight men who met death in the tunnel where they sought refuge from the forest flames were brought out last week.

Pack horses will bring the bodies from the mine to the railroad station at Borax. They will be carried on this train to the Willow Creek tunnel, where a transfer will be made, and another train will bring them to Wallace, arriving here some time this evening. J. Cronin is in charge of the party that is bringing the bodies out.

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**WALLACE-MISSOULA ROAD OPENED**  
**First passenger trains since fire are run.**

After being closed for a week the Northern Pacific line from Wallace to Missoula was opened yesterday, the passenger trains making the trip, only one transfer being necessitated. The Willow creek tunnel, which is located near the summit on the Idaho side caved in at either end and is also sagging in the center. It is here that the transfer is made. By making the transfer the S. Bridge, which also was burned by the forest fire, is avoided. A trestle also was burned in that vicinity, but the transfer, which is made on a loop, also avoids this.

It is the intention of the company to "daylight" the Willow creek tunnel, and work upon this will be begun at once. The S bridge will be rebuilt immediately and 800,000 feet of timbers have been ordered for this work.

While the tunnel is being "daylighted," a temporary track on a 60 degree curve will be built around it. The engine cannot be taken around but the cars can.

There were four bridges burned between here and St. Regis but these have already been repaired. Two of the bridges were across the St. Regis river, one was below Saltess and the other above. The other bridges were burned near Schon spur.

The big trestle just this side of Dorsey was saved by Roadmaster Webster and an American section man. Mr. Webster had a large crew of foreigners at that place working to save the trestle. The flames from the forest fires became so hot and close that all deserted. An American section man came to Mr. Webster's assistance and together they saved the trestle. It is a mystery how they did it, however, for the timber is burnt to its very edge.

The Borax tunnel was saved by the company's water car. Great streams of water were thrown upon the approaches and it did not burn. It was thought that there was no danger of the Willow creek tunnel burning and the efforts of the company were devoted to saving the Borax tunnel.

The passenger train from here yesterday did not have heavy traffic, but the one from Missoula had a large number of passengers.

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DAILY IDAHO PRESS  
Wallace, Idaho, Monday, August 29, 1920.

THANKS MISSOULA PEOPLE  
R.A.McVitty writes from Mullan, telling  
gratitude.

MISSOULA, Aug. 29.—The following letter from R.A.McVitty of Mullan was received by the Missoulian yesterday. Mr. McVitty was among those who arrived on the first train from the stricken district. Mr. McVitty expresses his thanks to the people of Missoula for their kind treatment as follows:

"Being one of those who left Mullan on the train from Wallace with our families, I wish to thank the people of Missoula for their kind and generous treatment of those whom the fiery blast cast among them. It showed that the people of Missoula are not only firm believers in the Golden Rule, but practice it as well in its fullest sense.

"I heard some complaints to the effect that the fraternal orders represented in the city did not live up to their obligations. I wish to correct this statement, for I never saw societies so strongly represented as in Missoula. I was overcome with joy when I saw them vieing with each other to see how many they could help. I want especially to thank the Knights of Pythias for the fulfillment of their obligations. I also wish to impress upon the members of the different societies the necessity for wearing their badges upon all occasions, at least in an emergency such as the recent fire.

"Again let me thank those noble women who were so kind and thoughtful of us all."

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**BIG CREEK VICTIM'S BODY IDENTIFIED BY WATCH CHAIN**

**Remains of Roderick Ames Brought to Wallace on  
Horse's Back - Taken from Charnel Hole**

Lashed to the back of a horse the body of Roderick Ames, one of the men who lost his life at Big creek, was brought to Wallace Saturday afternoon and was shipped out this morning from Ward's undertaking establishment to Russell, Ill., for interment. The trip with the body over the trail from Big creek was difficult.

Ames was one of the homesteaders on Big creek. In company with six others he fled to a small hole for safety when the great hurricane sprang up and leveled many great trees to the ground. Following directly upon the heels of the wind came the forest fire and the men were killed in the small hole they had sought for safety.

Three brothers of the dead homesteader came here and accompanied the packer to the scene of the disaster in order to bring the body out. The seven bodies had been left in the hole and covered over with dirt and rocks.

The body was identified by the watch and chain and also the trousers. The upper portion of the body was badly burned, but the lower part had scarcely been touched. The watch was still running when the party reached the scene and a part of the rawhide watch chain had not been consumed, making the identification certain.

The brothers who went after the body were C.E. Ames, Wrenoco, Ida., and P.J. Ames and J.C. Ames who live in this section of the country. P.J. Ames accompanied the body to Russell, Ill., where the parents reside. Three sisters and another brother also live there.

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**UPPER ST. MARIES FEARS REPETITION OF THE  
WALLACE DISASTER.**

Spokane, Aug. 29 — A disaster like that which swept the region of Wallace and Avery a week ago threatens the whole valley of the upper St. Maries river in northern Idaho.

Seven hundred men are fighting fires in the district and have warned out numerous homesteaders but it is not believed all will escape.

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#### **PREACHER GOES FAR TO BURY THE DEAD**

**Rev. Carter accompanies party to Big Creek  
to give nine bodies decent Christian burial.**

Accompanied by the Rev. Carter of the Congregational church a party of 10 left this morning for Big creek to bury the men who were killed in the forest fire there last Saturday. Rev. Carter went on the 12-mile trip over the burnt forests that the men might be given a Christian burial. It will take three days to make the trip. A cook accompanied the party.

Of the eleven who met death on Big creek, two of the bodies have been brought out, the other nine having been placed in temporary graves by the survivors of the disaster. Five are in one grave and four in another.

The men will be placed in separate graves and those that can be identified will have their resting place properly marked. Ed. Hale is in charge of the party.

Before leaving, Mr. Weigle told them what a fearful trip they would have and the volunteers who went on the said undertaking are all picked men. They were provided with rubber gloves with which to handle the bodies and also were supplied with an abundance of disinfectants.

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#### **NORTH FORK FIRES STILL RAGE**

The forestry department is fighting a number of blazes on the Coeur d'Alene national forest, but they are well in hand today. The cool night and the absence of wind today is of great aid to the fighters.

On either side of the north Fork of the Coeur d'Alene river, above Prichard, there is a big fire and a good sized force of men is working on this. There are fires also on Grizzly creek and on Wolf Lodge Bay. The fire on Independence creek is now 15 miles long. It was on this fire that a number were reported to have lost their lives, but it is known that no casualties occurred there during the big hurricane that scattered the fires in all directions last week.

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