

FIRE LOSS GIGANTIC
TWO BLOCKS ON PINE STREET ARE CAUGHT IN MILLION DOLLAR INFERNO

Ranger suffered its second million dollar fire when flames starting in the Prince Rupert cafe building on Pine street at 4 a. m. today swept that block from Rusk to Austin streets as far back as the alley which connects those streets, leaped across Pine street to gnaw a segment from that block and, fanned by a strong southerly wind, threatened buildings on Main street and for a distance of several blocks north.

The destroyed buildings:

On the south side of Pine street—
Ranger Gasoline company.
Bryan Garage,
Wright's Furniture Store,
Buck's Place (soft drink stand),

Liberty Cafe,
Arizona Rooms,
Prince Rupert Cafe,
Queen Theater,

Metropolitan Cafe,
Silk Art Shop,
Pine Rooms,
On the north side of Pine street—
Hansford second hand store,

W. H. McDonald Plumbing Co.
Denver Cafe,
Red Cross Drug store,
Harmon's cabaret.

Soon after the fire began, thousands flocked from outlying districts to view it. The streets leading to points where blazes burned were choked with people and vehicles, the more daring ones venturing nearer the flame, now approaching, now receding as waves of heat and smoke eddied back and forth with the changing wind.

When the fire was at its height a giant pillar of smoke, resembling the black trunk of a titan elephant, reached down from high in the sky into the business district of the city seemingly to sweep back and forth as if hungry for more fuel to suck up into its maw.

The crackling of fire and thud of falling timbers, the swish of flames as they lashed back and forth in the wind, could be heard for blocks. Barrels of lubricating oil ignited at the filling station at Pine and Rusk streets, gave the effect of the sharp rat-a-tat-tat of machine gun fire. The whole scene gave the impression of some graphic stage-effect, projected on a large scale.

"Man the hose! Water! Shoot 'er in there!" were the cries most heard as volunteer firemen pulled and tugged at hose or aimed heavy nozzles with unaccustomed hands. Rushing in behind a bank of smoke the better to throw water at some pivotal point, retreating as the smoke clouds began to again to envelope them, these men made themselves of inestimable worth as fire-fighters. The spume or direct stream of water from the hoses drenched their clothing. At one hose a boy still in his early teens worked side by side with the most daring of the volunteer fighters.

The crowd itself was motley as a whole. Ranger had jumped from its bed and run when the skies began to glow a burnished red. And Ranger was not fully dressed. With wraps of every sort thrown hastily about their shoulders many women hurried to the fire in their night clothes or house dresses. Men were more even more disheveled.

PIPE LINE MAN FOUND DEAD IN CADDO CREEK

May Have Fallen While Walking Concrete Dam Across Stream.

Abody, which was later identified as being that of A. B. Roberts, a pipe line walker of the Sinclair company, was found yesterday at 12 o'clock floating in Caddo creek, near the Ledbetter camp, fifteen miles north of Ranger. Behind the dead man's right ear and a little above it was found a deep wound. Evidence showed that the body had been in the water for several days and the pipe line department of the company reports that Roberts had been missing for several days.

When found the dead man was barefooted and his walking shoes and a straw hat were lying on the opposite bank. Near his body was a bundle of clothing which he is supposed to have been carrying. Seventeen dollars in money was found in his pockets.

Slipped From Dam. How Roberts died is not known but the supposition is that he was crossing a concrete dam across the creek and slipped and fell, striking his head in the fall. Several inches of water is running over the dam and its top is very slippery. The body was found in shallow water about fifty feet below the dam.

On information that could be obtained, the man ate breakfast at Strawn Friday morning and started to the Ledbetter camp. He had not been seen from that time until his body was found floating in the creek.

Left Body in Water. A call was sent to the Milford Undertaking company and both John E. Milford and his ambulance driver, E. F. Adair, went to the Ledbetter camp, arriving late in the afternoon. Mr. Milford was told that Stephens county officials had examined the body about noon, and left it in the water. They, however, took the clothing lying on the bank and the money the dead man had in his pocket.

With the exception of two foremen at the camp, none of the men would assist in rescuing the body. Mr. Milford took the matter up with the officials of the pipe line department, who issued orders that the men in the camp render all the help they could. The men, however, threatened to quit their jobs before they would go near the body, which was badly decomposed.

The four men waded into the stream, attached ropes to the floating body and by the aid of boards, finally dragged it up the steep bank of the creek. It was loaded into a truck and brought into Ranger, where it is being held by the Milford company pending funeral arrangements.

Estimated damages run from \$500,000 upwards. The rumored death of a blind man in the flames has not been confirmed. With the exception of the Ranger Gasoline company, Pine and Austin streets, the buildings destroyed were of frame construction, and little insurance was carried, it is believed.

The frame range on the south side of Pine street from Rusk to Austin has long been considered one of the most dangerous risks in the town, having been built in the early boom days, before building ordinances placed any sort of restriction on construction in the business district.

First efforts at fighting the blaze were directed from the Pine street side, but as the blaze spread east and west, lines of hose were laid from the south to keep it from spreading to other buildings in the block. Efforts to confine the blaze to the place of origin were not effectual, the flames continuing to the alley line east and west.

Sparks borne on the south wind soon had the Hansford store on the south side of Pine street in flames and the roaring furnace that this building became within a few minutes threatened the newly completed brick store building on Austin street, the Guaranty Bank building, the Gholson hotel, under construction.

Water pressure from the city main was not strong enough to be of any effect in the fight, and the motor pumper, stationed at the plug between Main and Pine on Rusk, was not working smoothly. When the powerful motor was purring at full speed, ample pressure for the lines was furnished.

Fire Chief C. L. Buttomer directed the efforts of the firemen in the gigantic task of checking the blaze. At one time he was taken to the Hotel Theodore, where he was resuscitated, to return to the struggle.

Eastland's fire department was called at 4:30 a. m. and responded at once. The Eastland pumper was put in action in place of the Ranger pumper, soon after the arrival.

When the fire jumped to the north side of Pine street the line of stores from the Hansford shop to Austin street, housed in newly completed and solid brick structure, was threatened, including Cole's Cafeteria, the former Lone Star theatre, now a banquet and dance hall in connection with the cafeteria, the Monaca Breadery and the Corner Drug Store.

The Battery Service Station, on Pine street was next to the inferno of fire and the large plate glass windows soon crashed from the heat. The building, however, resisted the blaze and the other businesses were not badly damaged, the Battery Service station being the only place in the building to suffer seriously.

A line from the pumper on Rusk street near Main was laid to the east and west alley back of Hansford's shop and the fire fought from the windward side, which prevented the further spread, to the new Gholson, the Guaranty bank building and the frame and brick buildings on Main street between Austin and Rusk.

Rusk street, from Main to Pine, on the west side a frame range was in great danger, but the fire was kept from a further spread north and east.

The frame structures across Rusk and south of Pine, including the Racine building, were smoking from the heat, but were kept from catching by water thrown on the roof.

The last building to fall into the clutch of the fire fingers was that housing the Silk Art Shop, at Austin and Pine streets, on which two lines were directed.

Mrs. Cora Stone, who leases twenty-one rooms of the Arizona hotel from Mrs. Sadie Miller for sub-renting, said that the four tenants of her rooms had escaped, though the contents of the building were not saved. She had not seen Mrs. Miller since the fire started.

The Ranger Gasoline station, which was the best structure destroyed in the conflagration, carried \$47,000 insurance, which would not cover the expensive stock of auto accessories, pleasure car and truck tires and gasoline and lubricants.

When this building was in flames, bright sheets of fire from burning oil shot up, and danger to the hundreds of spectators, as well as risk of further spread of flames, was feared from a gasoline explosion. Several drums of gasoline caught when the heat blew out the caps and the escaping gas roared out in jets of fire.

RINGOLD NOT INDICTED BY GRAND JURY

Several Other Cases Are Dropped for Want of Evidence.

The grand jury of Eastland county after investigating the charges against E. A. Ringold, former city tax assessor and collector, of embezzlement and altering tax receipts, failed to find sufficient evidence to indict. This information was contained in a report received this morning from Eastland.

The charge against Mr. Ringold followed an audit of the city's books where-in it was alleged that he embezzled \$4,000 and altered tax receipts. At the time the charges were brought Mr. Ringold placed enough money in the treasury of the city to cover his alleged shortage. When the warrant was issued for his arrest the city commission asked for and received his resignation as tax collector. The school board that he also served as collector retained his services regardless of the charges against him.

Others who were investigated by the grand jury and released are John Billings, Alvey White, C. Lester, Tom High and Boyd Penn.

CORPUS DESIGNATED AS 'LEAVE AREA' OF LEGION

CORPUS CHRISTI, Sept. 14.—Reminiscent of A. E. F. days, this city has been designated by the Texas department of the American Legion as the official "leave area" of the state.

While the picturesque touch will be lacking that was present when the Yanks of the A. E. F., in olive drab and with their "musketts" filled with extra socks, cigarettes and souvenirs, journeyed to such famous watering places as Nice, Biarritz, Menton and Monte Carlo, nevertheless plans under consideration by city authorities promise the legionaires a good time when they visit their state "leave area." A ten city located just a few yards from the breakers at North Beach is to be one of the attractions for the former soldiers.

In accepting the offer of Corpus Christi citizens the state organization extended them a vote of thanks and instructed officers of the legion to give the project adequate publicity among the members.

H-K TO OPEN NEW TOWN OF JIMKURN SOON

Townsite Near Breckenridge To Be Terminous of Railroad Hamon Announces.

Announcement has been made by Col. Jake L. Hamon, president of the Wichita Falls, Ranger & Fort Worth Railroad company, that the new town of Jimkurn, about nine miles north of Breckenridge, will be opened on Monday, Oct. 4. The new townsite which has been named in honor of James M. Kurn of St. Louis, president of the Frisco railway system, will be the terminus of the Hamon road and inasmuch as it now looks as though the northwestern extension of the Breckenridge oil field will extend to Jimkurn and beyond, it is expected that the 2,000 lots comprising the new townsite will be disposed of on the opening day of the sale.

Ohio's first woman's jury returned a verdict for the defendant in an eviction case.

Chinese Hold No Animosity for Rebel Leader

By Associated Press
PEKIN, Sept. 13.—At the moment when a military fiasco appears to have broken the power of the "Anfu Club," for several years the dominant element in Chinese politics, there is evident a spirit of tolerance toward Marshall Tuan Chijui, the "bell wether" of the organization and to whitewash his activities in the recent events, even naming his political opponents.

The aged field marshal, former premier, generalissimo of the army and leader of the now defeated Anfu faction—he is somewhere about 64—boasts that he never reads the newspapers and those who seek to minimize his culpability assert that he was led into error through a long series of misrepresentations by the chiefs among his adherents, and especially by the ambitious General Hsu Shu-chen, widely known as "Little Hsu." One of Tuan's virtues said to be that he never has been known to leave any of his constituents in the lurch, no matter what their faults might be and this fidelity has at times cost him dear. The Pekin Leader, organ of the Chihli or opposition party, editorialized Tuan as "one of the most spectacular careers of modern China" from which "there is much for the present and future leaders to learn, much for them to emulate and much to be warned by."

The editorial continues: "He has repeatedly proved himself the champion of the republican idea in the concrete. His opposition to Yuan Shih-kai's monarchical scheme was a telling factor in the preservation of a republican form of government and his championship of the republic at the time of Chang Sun's attempted restoration of the Ching dynasty needs no elaboration.

"He has realized his mistake, and has asked the president to allow him to resign. Retiring to private life at this juncture he still carries with him the respect of the president, of his opponents who have demanded no retributive punishment for him and of a great number of people."

SMELLING SALTS NOW USED TO CHRISTEN SHIPS

By Associated Press
BOSTON, Sept. 13.—Champagne is obtainable if you can find who has it, but it's altogether too valuable to waste in christening a ship. David Murphy recently launched the Edmondton in the Quahaog river, at Brookfield. He didn't waste any liquor for drinking, but just brought out a bottle of smelling salts and sprinkled 'em over the vessel's bow. "They'll be christening ships with powder puffs next!" exclaimed the builder disgustedly.

One woman to every four men will vote in Boston in the November election.

Gambling Mania Made Lisbon Brilliant Town; Didn't Pay; Closed

By Associated Press
LISBON, Portugal, Sept. 14.—Gambling, which flourished here to an extraordinary degree after the armistice, has suffered a severe check at the hands of the new government headed by Premier Baptista. Up to two months ago the gambling houses remained undisturbed, but since Baptista's government took office the law has been rigorously enforced and today there are few visible signs of the prosperity the gamblers have enjoyed for a year.

The gambling mania began to manifest itself as soon as the war ended. Magnificent clubs on which big fortunes had been spent suddenly sprang up like mushrooms; gilded, glittering clubs, splendidly furnished, such as Lisbon never dreamed of possessing. Palaces belonging to the old aristocracy were rented at incredible prices and transformed into "The Majestic," "The Palace Club," "Maxim's," "Palais Royal" and dozens of others on the same scale, with restaurants, ballrooms and gambling rooms; everything being perfectly planned and carried out on the most modern and expensive lines. Hundreds of smaller imitations followed, until it may with truth be said, that not a street in Lisbon was without two or three gambling houses.

A great change came over the humdrum social life of Lisbon, where nothing in the way of amusement ever happens beyond theatres and moving picture shows. The club-restaurant's excellent cuisine attracted fashionable crowds, constant relays of American and English tourists spent their money lavishly and

FRONT PORCH CAMPAIGN FOR WOMEN IS POPULAR

NEW YORK, Sept. 13.—A new "front porch campaign" among women of the Republican party which was inaugurated in the Middle West several weeks ago, has spread to the Eastern states and promises to be the rage among women politicians, according to an announcement at Republican national headquarters here following a meeting of women party leaders.

The plan as explained by its originator, Mrs. Manley L. Posseen, national committee woman of Minnesota, is for a woman to hold a political meeting on her front porch, with five-minute speeches for Harding and Coolidge. Afterward the hostess may display a Harding and Coolidge banner in her window. The system is an endless chain, Mrs. Posseen said, and has spread rapidly through the Middle West.

The use of water cars threatens to extirpate the women water carriers for centuries an institution in Jerusalem. I am already engaged.—Judge.

smartly dressed women coming nobody knows from where were a doubtful source of attraction in the streets by day and at the clubs by night.

Employees Go Wrong.
This condition existed for well over a year. Then well known firms were robbed by trusted employees.

An officer, who wore the Cross of War, shot himself after losing large sums of money, which were not his. Young men belonging to the best families fell into disgrace.

A campaign was then begun by part of the Portuguese press, headed by the Seculo and the Situ-cao. Columbus of letters from parents and well known Lisbonites were printed daily, disclosing demoralizing facts and exhorting the government to close the clubs. The governments, however, rapidly succeeding each other, had other things to attend to. And the gambling continued.

When the Baptista government came into office strenuous measures were taken. The magnificent clubs, the glittering restaurants, the smart foreign women all disappeared as suddenly as they had burst upon the scene a year ago.

For a week carts and camions conveying roulette tables and other gambling paraphernalia to the police stations formed the chief attraction of the Lisbon streets.

Frequent attempts have since been made to reopen resorts. Recently the Palais Royal club was re-established, ostensibly as a restaurant. Three days after it was closed by the police after a raid.

TRACHOMA BLINDING MANY THOUSANDS IN ORPHANAGES OF EAST

CONSTANTINOPLE, Sept. 14.—Blindness is no less prevalent in the Levant than it was in biblical days. Trachoma is responsible for most of the sightless men, women and children who wander through the streets of Cairo, Jerusalem, Damascus, Smyrna and Constantinople. Throughout Armenia, Anatolia and Syria trachoma has been the malady which has given the American Committee for Relief in the Near East more trouble than all others combined. It is especially bad among children. It rages in the orphanages where little Armenians, Greeks, Jews and Turks have been gathered by philanthropic organizations which are endeavoring to nurse war-torn Turkey back to normal health.

In an effort to check the ravages of trachoma and save well children from infection, the American Committee for Relief in the Near East is establishing an eye

hospital in Constantinople where all the trachomatous children from the various orphanages in the city will be isolated and given the best possible treatment for the disease. The Turkish government has placed a large hospital with many cottages at the disposal of the Americans, rent free and it will be staffed chiefly by Americans under the direction of Dr. Blanche Norton, an American relief doctor who has just recovered from trachoma which she contracted while treating Greek orphans in Anatolia.

The new hospital will accommodate about 1,000 patients.

In addition American relief workers are working out a campaign against trachoma which they hope the various governments in the Near East will take up. The Constantinople eye hospital is designed as a center from which a general educational and preventive campaign against trachoma may be launched.

All the treatments so far devised for trachoma are extremely painful. Dr. Blanche Norton, who is just recovering from the malady after five months of treatment, says the pain of the daily treatments is so excruciating that she can hardly understand how frail patients die from the nervous shock. It is the hope of the American committee that the Rockefeller institution, or some similar institution will devise treatments for the malady which are less painful and more certain of effecting a permanent cure.

WHOOPIING COUGH MEDICINE "ALIB" BRINGS \$100 FINE

DENVER, Sept. 13.—Frank De Rosa, charged by state officer Walter Byron with a violation of the prohibition law, appeared before Magistrate Rice, Thursday.

"Guilty?" inquired the court. "None," replied the defendant.

"Did you have any liquor in your possession?" asked the magistrate.

"Well, yes I had a little," responded De Rosa. "I have the whooping cough once in a while and I need a little slug in the elbow at such times."

"Just how much whiskey did you have?" continued the magistrate.

"Oh, just a little—just a little in case of sickness—eight or ten barrels of it I guess. Not an excessive amount, I'd say. Whoopin' cough is so dangerous, you know at this time of year."

"Hundred an' costs," said Magistrate Rice.

The German battleship Oestfriesland, one of the prize trophies of the war, now in the hands of the United States navy, must be broken up within one year under the terms of the treaty. The battleship will have a thorough examination by experts, afterward may ultimately be used as a floating target at sea and sunk by the big guns of the Atlantic fleet.

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BRITISH WAR FILM 'TOO REALISTIC' FOR PEACETIME SHOWING

By Associated Press
LONDON, Sept. 14.—The British public has just learned from the report of a government committee that a moving picture film prepared by direction of the war office at a cost of \$117,000 was destroyed after the armistice by government order because it was considered unsuitable for exhibition in peace time. The film was intended by the government to show what might have happened if England had been invaded by the Germans but it was not ready to be exhibited before the signing of the armistice and consequently was never publicly produced.

The Star reports that the film was a masterpiece of realism. There were many scenes depicting the British countryside under enemy rule, taken from real incidents obtained from Belgium and France, and "battles" were arranged in which actual army corps took part.

William Davies, a well-known pageant producer, was given carte blanche by the war office, which supplied all accommodations needed and a staff of naval and military officers to insure every detail being correct. German uniforms, helmets, rifles and other paraphernalia from pris-

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HOOPS FOR HOME BREW

ROME, N. Y., Sept. 13.—Home brewers are making the hop growing districts of central New York rich. There is a greater demand for hops—the flavoring ingredient of beer—than ever before and the greatest crop per acre in the history of the industry is now maturing. It will run more than 2,000 pounds to the acre and \$1 a pound is freely offered. A hop crop costs 35 cents a pound to produce so that an acre will net about \$1,500. Some growers have 100 to 200 acres, and the big growers look for a profit for the season of from \$100,000 to \$200,000.

Buyers are flooding the hop sections and many small buyers have gone into the market for hops, which they will put up in three pound packages and sell with a can of malt and a printed circular of instructions.

Times Want Ads Pay

The mimic fights were far more real than the biggest fighting fiction films have ever shown, says the report.

Times Want Ads Pay

Attractive Bed Room Suites



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Home Outfitters
316 Main Street Ranger, Texas

\$2500 CASH PRIZE

In the window of our new location, at the corner of Rusk and Walnut streets, to which we are making our final move, is a glass jar full of beans. To the person who guesses the nearest to the number of beans in this jar will be awarded a cash prize of \$25.00.

Each contestant is entitled to one guess and to be eligible for this guess must make a cash purchase of twenty-five cents or more. On the ticket we will issue for such purchase must be entered the contestants name, address and guess. This ticket will be dropped in a box which will be opened Saturday, Sept. 18, 1920, at 3 p. m. This jar will be opened at the same time by some disinterested party and the beans counted in the presence of witnesses. The winner will be announced as soon as the beans are counted and the winning number located.

In case of tie the prize will be divided among the tying contestants or may be awarded as a majority of them may see fit.

We reserve the right to conceal a foreign substance of any size we may see fit in this jar in order to make the guessing more difficult.

Contest starts Thursday, Sept 16, 1920, at 7 a. m. and closes Saturday, Sept. 18, 1920, at 3 p. m.

We will have a number of specials at attractive prices for these three days.

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