

IN A FURNACE OF TAR

H. C. Ashenfelter Meets Death in Terrible Form.

JUST FINISHING HIS WORK.

While Putting the Last Touches on the New University He Perishes—His Companion's Escape.

To be plunged to death in a burning sea of pitch, at the very moment of completion of an extensive contract, was the tragic fate of H. C. Ashenfelter at the University of Washington yesterday forenoon, and while the fire was roaring and burning the life out of the unfortunate man, his companion, Frank Gallagher, was successful in an attempt at rescue.

The scene of the accident. The tank is situated on the highest piece of ground in the preserve, and is about 60 feet north of the main building and 50 feet west of the gymnasium. It is 18 feet in diameter at the bottom, 14 feet at the top, and 17 feet high. It was covered by a roof, built on staves that were projected above the rest of the tank, leaving an opening of about fourteen inches. It is seventy-five feet above the ground, and is built on large timbers, 12x12, 7x7 and 6x6.

The salamander, or stove, is a sheet iron, circular vessel, standing on iron legs. The fire is made in the bottom of shavings and coal, and when the tar becomes too cool to paint with the buckets are held over it by means of hooks or sticks. It was while the bucket was being held over the fire that the handle, which is fastened to the bucket by solder, came loose, causing the tar to spill and ignite. This is generally done on the outside and hoisted up, but to save the work of a man and complete the job in quicker time Ashenfelter placed the bucket inside the tank and did the work himself.

Superintendent Johnson said last night that he considered the work extremely dangerous and told Ashenfelter that he had no power to stop the contractor in the work. If it had been a workman alone, he should have done so. Mr. Johnson paid a high tribute to the dead man, and in order to mark his tragic end, Deputy Coroner Teater took charge of the remains and will hold an inquest today, after which the body will be sent to Spokane by the members of the Scottish Rite Masons for burial. A telegram was sent to his wife apprising her of his death.

Ashenfelter's Honorable Record. As a contractor on the new university work Mr. Ashenfelter was thrown into frequent intercourse with Edmond S. Meany, secretary of the board of regents, and he became friendly with him, and a permanent friendship. Mr. Meany last evening gave the following information about his friend:

"I do not know of anything as awful to me as this sad death. When Mr. Ashenfelter came here a year and a half ago to bid on the contract to construct the new university building, he was known by me as a carpenter in Illinois, afterwards settling in Chicago. About eight years ago he removed to Spokane, and soon built up a lucrative business, owning two sawmills and carrying on an extensive contracting business. He built the Great Northern depot building in Spokane and the extension of the National bank building in Spokane. He was a man of high character, and his reputation in this state for honest, faithful workmanship.

His Pride in His Work. "He has a beautiful home in Spokane, and a wife and interesting family of seven children. He often gave expression to his pride in being the builder of the new university, and said he would see to it that every one of his children was educated there."

"When he started the work on the main building he was besieged by hundreds of men needing work, and often said he wished he could give each one of them good places to work. He was especially anxious to help the university students who were trying to earn their way through school, and not a few of such students can testify to his enthusiastic encouragement and help. It was evidence of this kind that soon convinced me that Harry Ashenfelter was a superior man, as well as a successful builder."

An Incident of His Boyhood. "I remember one incident of his boyhood. He said one day that all during the war times no regiment of Union soldiers ever passed through Philadelphia without being greeted by the people of that city. He remembered those times, and once he climbed over the fence enclosing a regiment of Union soldiers, and he had his arms to sell to the soldiers. An officer caught him, but being interested at the spirit manifested by the little fellow, passed him on. From that moment to the time of his unfortunate death he was always pushing his own way and climbing up in the world by his own efforts."

The Body Recovered. Henry H. Hindshaw, the gardener, who went up the ladder with Mr. Johnson, climbed in through the hole, wrapped the body in a quilt and lifted it up so the other men could take it out. There was about sixteen inches of water in the bottom of the tank when Mr. Hindshaw went in. The body of the burned contractor was placed on a board and lowered to the ground by means of a block and tackle. It was then carried to one of his old construction buildings, where it remained until Bonney & Stewart's wagon called and took it away. Gallagher, in the meantime, had his hands attended to by Dr. Chapman, who lives near the university, and was taken to his home at 218 Harvard street.

Gallagher's Account of It. Gallagher was present at the home by a representative of the Post-Intelligencer during the afternoon. He was sitting in an easy chair before the fire, his hands wrapped with oakum, put on at the university, and his eyes were sorely inflamed by the dense smoke and fire. The good wife, sobbing and crying, but withal thankful that her husband's life had been saved, said that his four little children played about his chair, unconscious of their father's narrow escape. Although suffering intense pain, Gallagher told the following story of the experience he had gone through:

"Mr. Ashenfelter came to me last Saturday and asked me if I would work in the tank the next day. He said that he had a little, and he wanted to fix it before the meeting of the regents. I told him I would, so the next day we got everything ready and began work on the inside on Monday. We had no accidents that day, and this morning resumed work. Everything went on well until about 11 o'clock, when a bucket of tar was sent over which I slid down the ladder in which I was working, and with a wisp of overlight which whirled the fire out. The smoke was very thick, and Mr. Ashenfelter was nearly overcome. He got out, however, and went down to the building, and I let the fire go out, because I thought it was dangerous. In about half an hour he came back, accompanied by Mr. Johnson. A fire was made, Mr. Johnson cutting the kindling, at the same time remarking that the

work was too dangerous for him, and cautioning me. He started to go out, but when half-way up the ladder another bucket tipped and caught fire, but I started that off easily. After Johnson left, I put that work again near the top of the tank, and in a few minutes another fire started, and in less than a minute it takes to tell the whole place was a mass of smoke and flames. I saw Mr. Ashenfelter's exclamation, 'For God's sake, Frank, hold the ladder.'"

"I slid down the ladder as fast as I could and groped for my partner, and found him lying on his back near the summit. I tried to get him up, but the flames were roaring around me so thick that I was compelled to climb down. I tried to get my heart and I could not have felt worse over a brother. I knew I had to hurry in order to save my own life, so I climbed over through the top and swung over the ladder. That is all I remember. How I got down to the ground I do not know. Mr. Ashenfelter was one of the finest men I ever knew, and was very kind to me."

Gallagher's hands were badly burned about the fingers, and would have been burned to a crisp had not been a large quantity of tar on them, which protected them from the flames. It is thought his recovery will be rapid.

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The Pingree Plan for Example. As an example of what a judicious management of the city lands can do, Mr. Bridges referred to the operation of the Pingree plan in this city, and pointed out the fact that, although a late start was made, there has been an income of about \$2,500 from what other cities would have considered unproductive land. He discussed section 34 of article IX of the charter, which provided that the city may acquire property held by other persons, and that the term of redemption has expired, when ever called for by resolution of the city council. The speaker referred to the provisions of the charter, and urged that the law in the interest of people outside of the city who count on making a large profit if the population increased, by redeeming their lands, should be changed so that the city should also take the risk if the population remained comparatively at a standstill. "We want to top off the string," he said, "and give our community the benefit of these lands, and urged his auditors to do what they could at the coming revision of the charter to affect the desired change."

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AMUSEMENTS.

"A Day in June." Daniel Sully closed his engagement at the Seattle theater last night with a presentation of "A Day in June," an entirely new comedy-drama in three acts, written by Dan Mason. The theater was well filled, and the audience applauded frequently and laughed heartily many times. In the play there is much light comedy, perhaps better called farce-comedy, involving an ever-moving Monmouth man than "Charlie's Aunt," and a serious strain that is intended to give a good foundation for thought. Some of the situations are very funny and some pathetic, and the tangled grooves of the switches about the scenes that adds interest to the denouement.

The two principal characters are Michael Nolan (Mr. Sully), a big-hearted man, and Rudolph Binger (Mr. Mason), a German of means who would like to marry a lively widow (Julia Hanchett). After many complications the play ends with the usual unwinding of the tangle.

The performance was not as smooth as it might have been, but it was only the eighth rendition. Mr. Sully was not up to his usual level, and was very uncertain of his lines. Mr. Mason was excellent as Binger, and Mrs. Hanchett played the widow to perfection. Miss Russell as Mrs. B. B. Belmer was "cute," but injured her acting through apparent efforts to refrain from laughing. Archie Allen as Belmer was clever in the third act, when he had an opportunity. Up to that time he was kept in mind by sudden appearances and disappearances without special reasons. Herschel Maxwell as the bad husband was the only actor who marred it by a certain staginess that was not pleasing. Miss Kate Michelson made an acceptable deserted wife, but was still more pleasing when she sang about a heart that has truly loved never forgets.

"Charlie's Aunt" Next Week. The famous play "Charlie's Aunt" will be given its second representation at the Seattle theater next Monday and Tuesday. It is written down as the greatest success in farce-comedy ever given in this country. Of superior excellence in construction, sprightly dialogue displaces the rough stuff which is so common in other comedies. It starts the audience in a ripple of laughter and dismisses it in a ripple of three-quarter hours later. Grace Thorne Coulter will be the star, and she is being followed by other comedians, along with other charming comedians.

The Bacon Stock Company. At Corby's last evening the Bacon Stock company gave its second performance of "The Estate of Hannibal How." The production was remarkably smooth and the climaxes were worked up with telling effect. Miss Cleaveland as Lucille repeated the successes at the initial performance, and the other members of the company acquitted themselves creditably. The play will be repeated this evening.

Plymouth Church Fair. The congregation of Plymouth church opened a fancy fair in the building last night, with the object of raising a sufficient sum to defray the cost of the organ. This instrument is said to be one of the finest in the state, and cost, some four or five years ago, \$5,300. The fair was opened by Mrs. A. J. Taylor, Mrs. E. W. Wickwar, Mrs. E. C. Kilbourne, Mrs. Andrew Knox, Mrs. L. S. Willard and Mrs. J. M. Taylor. The orchestra of twelve pieces will be added to the attractions.

An Old Suit Dug Up and Re-interred. Justice McElwain yesterday granted a non-suit in the case of a Pennsylvania Dutch family, whose name was the synonym of industry and integrity. Always ambitious as a young man, he struck out for himself before completing his education, and first began his work as a carpenter in Illinois, afterwards settling in Chicago. About eight years ago he removed to Spokane, and soon built up a lucrative business, owning two sawmills and carrying on an extensive contracting business. He built the Great Northern depot building in Spokane and the extension of the National bank building in Spokane. He was a man of high character, and his reputation in this state for honest, faithful workmanship.

BREVITIES. Seattle Turn Verein masquerade, Saturday, December 7. The Fidelity and Casualty Company has filed a claim with the city clerk for \$295.30 for the windows in the Olympic block broken by the bursting of a water main sewer.

President C. P. Huntington, of the Pacific Mail Steamship Company, and President S. W. Benson, of the Panama Railway Company, had a conference in New York Tuesday regarding the proposed agreement between the two companies. Huntington said subsequently that everything was progressing favorably, and the plaintiff evidently neglected to file the contract which would probably be signed within a few days.

JAPANESE BAMBOO STORE, 1104 Second Street. Special opening during the coming season. All kinds of bamboo goods, bookcases, tables, chairs, easels, etc. Come early and inspect our goods.

Time Is Money. The man whose time is money can save much in the course of a year if he finds his trains are always on time. The Northwestern Line is one of the most reliable in the world, and not a few of such students can testify to his enthusiastic encouragement and help. It was evidence of this kind that soon convinced me that Harry Ashenfelter was a superior man, as well as a successful builder."

To Enjoy Life. The physical machine must be in good running order. A little care—the use of Epsom salts—will give you every morning the feeling that you are "glad to be alive."

Notices. The water will be shut off today from 8 a. m. to 5 p. m. on the following streets: Commercial, from Vesler to Main, and on Main from South Sixth to Commercial.

A bowler of beauty was Plymouth church lecture room last night. Bravely everywhere, beautiful bows, decorations, dinner tables, beautiful needlework, and beautiful ladies without number, in costumes modern and ancient. Today noon a sumptuous lunch, and in the evening another beautiful turkey dinner, with music by the orchestra.

Eyeglasses for Christmas gifts. Eyes tested free. Miss P. Wilinski, graduate optician, 801 Front.

When Baby was sick, we gave her Castoria. When she was a Child, she cried for Castoria. When she became Miss, she clung to Castoria. When she had Children, she gave them Castoria.

The Daily Post-Intelligencer is now on sale in Portland, Or., at Rich Bros., 24 Morrison street, Portland Hotel, 100 Main and Northwest News Co., 124 First street.

Advertisement for a flour product, featuring the text "Try Us. We are made in Seattle from Washington raised wheat. You'll like us. PATENT EXCELLENT and NOVELTY A FLOUR."

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The City's Right Imperfect. "Under delinquent tax sales," said the speaker, "the city's right should be as complete as that of an individual, and property to which the city has title should be used for the benefit of citizens in common. It is a waste of effort on the part of the city that the officers will not put their rights into operation, and taxes on property are declared delinquent over and over again, until whole volumes are required to make out the record of delinquencies. There is a serious loss to the city in this way, and it is growing and growing, and by a turn in bookkeeping another burden is placed on the shoulders of the community."

Let the Lands Be Leased. "In my opinion we should hold this land for the benefit of all the people, and, like the people of England in the sixteenth century, throw the commons open so that nature's storehouse would not remain closed unless the privilege of entering were begged of some man. Why not utilize these lands, and let them out to anybody who will pay the charge therefor? Let the city acquire the lands, and lease them as school lands are leased, and in time we will no longer be confronted with depleted treasuries. A question of delinquency is now confronting every officer, county, municipal, and the only possible way out for the city has been for the officers to have a back door to enter, in the shape of a water fund. Why not let our water fund be in the hands of the city, and our water be discharged from a lack of money to pay him?"

The Pingree Plan for Example. As an example of what a judicious management of the city lands can do, Mr. Bridges referred to the operation of the Pingree plan in this city, and pointed out the fact that, although a late start was made, there has been an income of about \$2,500 from what other cities would have considered unproductive land. He discussed section 34 of article IX of the charter, which provided that the city may acquire property held by other persons, and that the term of redemption has expired, when ever called for by resolution of the city council. The speaker referred to the provisions of the charter, and urged that the law in the interest of people outside of the city who count on making a large profit if the population increased, by redeeming their lands, should be changed so that the city should also take the risk if the population remained comparatively at a standstill. "We want to top off the string," he said, "and give our community the benefit of these lands, and urged his auditors to do what they could at the coming revision of the charter to affect the desired change."

The Uses of Coal Tar. New Orleans Times-Democrat. The variety of useful products obtained in the laboratory from coal tar is amazing. This substance, formerly thrown away as worthless, serves the purposes of the synthetic chemist admirably, inasmuch as it is a very elaborate organic compound, very cheap and containing a great variety of elements. It has furnished hundreds of new and valuable medicines, particularly the coloring principle of madder, from coal tar also comes purpurine, which nowadays forms the basis of many dyes. Some time ago Bayer, a German chemist, manufactured indigo as pure as that yielded by the plant. Commercially speaking, the artificial indigo has not been a success, simply because other dyes made in the laboratory do the same work more cheaply. Everbody knows that the "artificial camphor" sold in the shape of "moth balls" is got from coal tar.

There will be a public meeting at the Armory hall Thursday evening at 7:30 sharp, at which speakers will conduct a joint debate on the question which is to be voted on next Tuesday. Everybody is earnestly requested to be present.

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THE A. P. A. WINS AT BALLARD A Sweeping Majority in City Election—New Marshal Elected.

The city election resulted in a sweeping victory for the A. P. A., for it elected every member on its ticket, with the exception of city clerk, which was won by the beaten by one vote. The result was as follows: Mayor—George Startup, A. P. A., 22; Seth Chandler, Citizens, 13. City treasurer—G. Thompson, A. P. A., 24; R. A. Morris, Citizens, 13. City clerk—G. W. Emerson, Citizens, 18; Frank E. Pells, A. P. A., 14. Councilman-at-large, T. Houston, A. P. A., 29; George Weber, Citizens, 19. Councilman, two-year term—First ward, John Reed, A. P. A., 18; David McVay,

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Advertisement for Kline & Rosenberg's Baking Powder, featuring an illustration of a man in a top hat and a woman in a long dress. The text emphasizes the product's quality and availability.