

The Madisonian.

VOL. 24.

VIRGINIA CITY, MONTANA, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 26, 1896.

NO. 11.

SHERIDAN MINERS'

AWFUL FATE.

FRIGHTFUL ACCIDENT ON INDIAN CREEK

Resulting in the Death of James Jones and Albert McCally—Were Throwing Out Giant Powder—Their Cabin Destroyed by Fire Resulting from the Explosion and the Bodies of the Unfortunate Men Burned Beyond Recognition.

SHERIDAN, Dec. 24.—[Special Correspondence.]—A dreadful accident occurred on Tuesday morning on Indian creek at the Mohawk and Banner mines, which resulted in the death of James Jones and Albert McCally. Wm. Fox, who was working with them, had gone to work after breakfast, leaving Jones to sharpen the tools, and McCally to put new handles in some picks.

Just after breakfast McCally brought from a dugout, which served as a powder house, about forty feet below the cabin, a dozen sticks of powder in a flour sack, and placed them on a bench back of the stove as they had been doing, using about that amount in two days.

After being at the mine a few minutes Fox heard an awful explosion, and as he was working in a new cut stepped to the edge of it and saw dust and smoke issuing from the house he had just left. He immediately hastened to it and called, but got no answer except the explosion of a box of giant caps.

The windows were blown out, there was a hole through the roof where the stove stood, and the cabin ablaze inside. Their supply of coal oil was in the house and he thought that helped to kindle the flames. There was a small spring below the house but nothing to carry water in. Seeing the hopelessness of the case, and it appearing certain that both men were dead, he concluded to call help as soon as possible. It was two or more miles to the nearest help, and by the time it came the building was burned to a crisp and beyond recognition.

When word came to Sheridan the coroner was telephoned to, but could not come, so H. M. Fitch, J. P., was notified and at once started a team and four men, with Charley Gemmill in charge, to bring the bodies down. Arriving at the old Hall across their team was left and a walk of two miles was made before reaching the scene of the disaster. At 10 p. m. the charred remains had been taken out of the debris and laid out and covered with canvass. They were then wrapped in a wagon sheet and drawn down the trail to the gulch and on to Sheridan.

On the following morning an inquest was held with W. Raymond, J. Bothwell, E. Day, J. Calavan, G. W. Shoemaker and Fred Shultz as jurors; the verdict being that the men were killed by an accidental explosion of giant powder.

Both men were well known and a large procession followed the remains to the cemetery, where the Rev. R. P. Smith conducted burial services.

SHERIDAN SALAD.

Merry Social Matters—How the People of the Valley Town Spent the Week.

SHERIDAN, Dec. 24.—[Special Correspondence.]—Skating parties have been the order of the day—or rather night—here, lately. A week ago last Sunday evening 34 of our young people and children, took passage in the "Black Maria" for a skating pond near Jim Duncan's. The accident of the evening fell to J. J. Rosenberger, who beat the ice with his head, thereby losing some blood, and causing him to faint away on the return home, but his friends may be glad to know that no serious consequences have resulted.

The blacksmith shop, owned by Alex Scott, situated near the stage andivery barn, so long silent, has been lessened and the sound of anvil and hammer is now heard on both sides of Main street all the day long.

Little Pearl Welcher recently lost the end of one of her fingers by it being caught in the door which suddenly closed upon it.

Jack Baker has moved his family into town for the winter. They are domiciled in one of the Raymond houses.

Miss Minnie Siprell is spending the holidays with her parents.

The receipts of the Episcopal fair was \$244, leaving \$200 net, which reduces the debt on the new church to \$150. This tells well for the friends of the church, and for the enterprise of Sheridan.

On last Friday evening the "Black Maria" started out again with a load of young people for Twin Bridges, to attend the church fair held there, and to join a skating party, as the bright moonlight nights tempt to outdoor pleasure more than to indoors. It is astonishing how many people that black vehicle of Tom Shaw's will hold. 33 persons—men, women and children went, and yet, there was "room for more."

Merchant Wicks has been here with his wagons, made sales and gone on.

John Hatfield and family have returned to the Montana mines for the winter.

Farmers Duncan and McCrea went to Butte last week, loaded with pork, selling out the same at a low figure. Mr. Siprell visited the Smoky city, in company with them.

The debate on Friday night was list-

ened too with interest and appreciation by a full house. The singing and recitations were very good. The next meeting of this society will be held on Tuesday evening of the coming week, at which time a good time may be expected.

Mrs. Cromberg and family, of Butte, have returned to Sheridan to live. Mr. Cromberg, of Nodolville, is in town in poor health, stopping at the Ruby hotel.

Mrs. Carver is having a two week's vacation in her school, having returned to her home at Meadow creek on last Saturday. The other schools will have a week's vacation, from Xmas till after New Years.

There are so many pupils in the public school that there is talk of hiring another teacher for the coming term.

Rev. Smith spent several days in Virginia City and Ruby valley last week. He preached an excellent sermon on "Miracles" Sunday night to a crowded house. For the remainder of the winter he has arranged to be in Sheridan every other Sunday, preaching morning and evening of the same day, while the alternate Sundays, commencing Dec. 27 will be spent in the Ruby valley and in Virginia City.

S. B. Rice, of Butte, and Hon. Alex Metz were in town last Saturday.

Mr. Aea Caruth was over from Rochester on Monday looking for butter and eggs. There is this vicinity seem to be on a strike.

Xmas will soon be here, and then how happy the little folks will be. It just makes one wish he was a boy again (or a girl) to enter the post office where Walker has so many things, dear to the heart of the children. It puts one back twenty or thirty years to look at them.

Two Xmas entertainments tonight, a tree at the Episcopal church, while we hear that the Methodists are to have an "Aladdin's Castle" at their church, the principal part of the entertainment (singing and recitations) by the children, which is always enjoyed by the older ones.

No pains has been spared to make the ball given by the Maccabees to-night a grand success. Everybody and his girl is expected.

Cards are out for the golden wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Glasser, for next Saturday afternoon and evening. Fifty years is a long time to live with one person.

J. B. Sloss, of Boulder, was here the first of the week looking after mines.

Geo. Canforth and C. W. Birchard of Twin Bridges, were in town yesterday, the latter soliciting for the "Home Forum Benefit Order."

O. F. Parmeter left on Wednesday for Roseland, B. C., to be gone some time.

Wicked Tom Baker was in town Wednesday en route to the social city.

The social at Mrs. Courtney's on Wednesday evening was largely attended, and a most enjoyable time had.

TWIN BRIDGES.

Gossip of the Valley—James Summers' Fall—Personal Mention.

TWIN BRIDGES, Dec. 23.—[Special Correspondence.]—The social event in juvenile circles since last we wrote was a skating and taffy party given by Miss Flora Dreim at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Wilhart, Friday evening. The skating party lasted about two hours when all repaired to the house to pull the taffy. And they pulled taffy with a vengeance. About 10 o'clock the company numbering 28 left for home with joyful hearts.

The church fair at Sheridan attracted several of our citizens to that town last Friday and Saturday.

C. W. Birchard had the misfortune to lose a fine brood mare last week, by falling upon the ice in the pasture where she was running.

Quite a number of our young people drove up to Abe Goethus' place at Centerville last Friday evening and enjoyed a social dance.

Mrs. Lindner, whose sickness we mentioned recently, is no better, but gradually falling. She is now unable to sit up. The real cause of her trouble is not fully known, but it appears to be a form of nervous prostration.

The Degree of Honor, whose regular meeting would occur on Christmas Eve, meets this evening to nominate officers for the ensuing term.

The Home Forum will meet upon Saturday evening for the next three weeks as Friday evening seems to be in demand for holiday festivities.

We regret very much to learn that Miss Grace Baker is still falling. A beautiful life is slowly passing away as the flower of autumn seems to be the deathly blasts of winter.

Mr. and Mrs. Emil Quilthurst contemplate starting to Ohio in the near future where they will make their future home. We understand he has an opportunity to engage in business with a relative of his.

It is the purpose of Mr. Gardner Pease to move the post office across the street to the drug store of which he is co-owner.

Mrs. E. L. Smith was down from Vir-

ginia recently in the interests of her business here.

Our stores are not making very great displays of holiday novelties, but they have good stocks of the necessary articles of life on hand and will give customers good bargains.

The people of Paradise will remember the Christmas occasion by a tree and a general literary program on Christmas night.

Miss Katie Swanstrom, who is now in school in Deer Lodge, expects to spend the holidays with home friends.

Our Rochester neighbors are on the alert for Christmas. On Christmas Eve they will have an old fashioned tree and distribute good things, and on the evening of the 26th, will give a grand ball.

The Maccabees of this place—Tent No. 11—will give their first annual ball in White's hall on New Year's Eve. They are making all preparations necessary to afford a very enjoyable occasion to all who attend.

The legislature will soon meet and it is sincerely hoped that the new session will not pattern after the assemblage of two years ago and spend three-fourths of the time allowed, in china music. Start the mill at once.

James Schumaker has been circulating a petition asking that he be given the road work in District No. 6. James is a rustler, and although we do not favor the law compelling any man who is willing to work to stand idle and put up his cash, James will fill the bill. By the way, why not have this bill amended before work begins in the spring.

The refusal of the county commissioners of Jefferson county to build their approach to the new Gaylord bridge, seems to be a very injudicious act. It rather looks to us that Jefferson county was trying to cause various slices of its domain to be segregated. If they don't care to bother with that portion lying in the vicinity of Whitehall no doubt Madison would be willing to take it under her wing.

Miss Clista Hunter has been compelled to quit school and return to the ranch, on account of ill health.

A fair estimate of the value of good horses can be derived from the sale of Mrs. Laurin's stock last Thursday. The average price was not far from \$12 on over 80 head. These were all fine draft horses too. If we are not mistaken, the assessor's value is more than this figure. If well bred stock suffers this fate, where, oh where is the common cause?

To-morrow the law suit between Wigmore and McClure will occur in Justice Fitch's court at Sheridan. This is a case where a tenant made all he could from a ranch, borrowed all he could on the strength of the growing crop, and after securing a season's credit at the stores, "skipped by the light of the moon." Mr. Wigmore sues to secure his claim, Mrs. E. L. Smith then covered his claim with a bond and tries to recover a grocery bill from the surplus—and the jury will tell the rest.

Martin L. Goethus, one of our Ruby ranchers, passed through town Tuesday, en route for Butte with a load of pork.

Wm. Heller broke ground Tuesday for a 2x40 frame building on the corner of Main and Fifth Ave. "Doc" did not inform us as to the purposes of the building, but we surmise that the front will be for tonsorial parlors and the rest for batching for two.

Since the days of Adam, man has been subject to the fall, and Joe Somers was only following the prescribed plan when he fell from the cornice of his building this week. Joe still lives to tell of the event.

Miss Minnie Siprell will leave for Butte after the holidays to accept a position in Evans' book store.

Miss Clara Mueller of Rochester, spent the early part of the week with her sister, Mrs. J. R. Stark.

Friends who have correspondence with Miss Mabel Wheat, who is now in Salt Lake city, state that she is in much better health than when she left here.

Hon. Wm. Owsley will soon tie himself away to Helena to assist in law-making. Mrs. Owsley and Master Merrill will accompany him and remain in the capital city for a while, at least.

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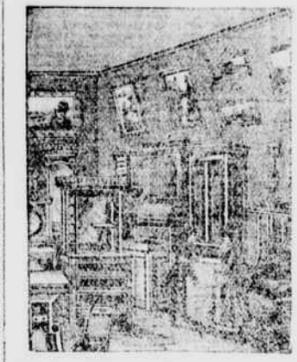
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