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\$1.50 Per Year

BJORK BLOCK BURNS-LOSS \$60,500

Fire Started Wednesday Morning--Hotel and Five Business Firms Burned Out

ONE MAN LOSES HIS LIFE

Blaze Started in Rear of Restaurant But Origin is Unknown--Very Little of Value Was Saved

A fire, the origin of which is unknown, broke out Wednesday morning about 3 o'clock and completely destroyed the Bjork building, which was occupied by the Overland hotel, the largest and oldest hostelry in the city, together with two saloons, a poolroom and a restaurant, which occupied the four rooms on the ground floor. The building was a two-story brick structure. One man, John Johnson, a miner of Blewett, is known to have lost his life, and it is thought there may have been others.

The heaviest loser was John Bjork, who owned the building. He states that his investment was \$33,000, covered by \$17,000 insurance.

The Overland Bar, owned by J. B. Violette, was totally destroyed, the loss being about \$10,000, with \$8,800 insurance.

Chas. Nickell, who owned the Windmill Pool Room, places his loss at \$4,500. He carried \$3,000 insurance.

F. H. Hutchings, proprietor of the Lobby Bar, estimates his loss at about \$8,000, with \$4,000 insurance.

Mrs. Irene Gordon, proprietress of the Overland hotel, loses \$5,000, with \$1,500 insurance.

On the Overland Restaurant which was conducted by two Japs there was no insurance. Here the loss was about \$2,000.

The fire, when first discovered by some railroad men, appeared to be in the rear of the Overland restaurant. It had already gained considerable headway, and after giving the alarm, the men dashed upstairs to arouse the sleepers. Smoke was already pouring down the hallways, and the danger of suffocation was great. E. J. Vallier, a fireman who came in on No. 25, at 3:15 was among the first to get up stairs and warned a number of the roomers of their peril although he was nearly overcome by the smoke before getting out of the building. On the way out he found two men lying in the hallway in an unconscious condition and succeeded in dragging them down the stairs to safety.

By this time it was a serious risk to enter the building, and all attempts to reach any of the roomers who might not have been notified was given up. The two jap proprietors of the restaurant were found fast asleep by the range in the rear of the room and were awakened in the nick of time. From all accounts the fire appears to have broken out in a small frame building

which joins on to the rear of the store-rooms of the restaurant and the Overland bar, one part of which is used by J. B. Violette as a storeroom for his liquor. In a very short space of time the fire reached the liquor, bursting dozens of barrels of whiskey stored there, the flames spread very rapidly and soon forced their way into the rooms on the second floor of the brick building.

It was probably thirty minutes before the volunteer firemen had the hose connected up and began pouring streams of water into the building which was by this time a seething mass.

By this time it was quite evident that the Bjork building was doomed, as would be the two adjoining brick buildings owned by Tom Burke and O. S. Sampson, and probably others in the next block would burn if there was not a concentrated effort to save them.

It was then that every hose was pointed toward the wall separating the two buildings. By hard work the firemen succeeded in extinguishing the blaze in that side of the burning building, and a sigh of relief went up from the crowd, for from that time on the fire was confined to the Bjork building alone. In the other side of the building the fire still raged and a continuous stream of water was poured into it, but it did little or no good.

The west side of the building was reached last by fire. Here the gasses had collected and a terrible explosion, blowing out a large portion of the wall, occurred. By 5 o'clock the building was practically in ruins.

One of the most unfortunate occurrences in connection with the fire was the burning to death of John Johnson who occupied room 15 in the hotel.

According to Jack Heaton who roomed at the Overland, he entered Johnson's room and tried to awaken him, but the man appeared to be in a stupor and would not get up. He says he then went on down stairs as the room had already filled with smoke. That was the last ever seen of John Johnson alive.

A body was found Thursday morning which is believed to be that of Johnson. Mr. Johnson, who had spent many years at the Blewett mining camp was well known here and had many friends. He had bought supplies to take back to Blewett on the following morning and had made arrangements for a rig to take him home. But alas, John will never go home as he had planned. One or two other loggers it is believed perished, but this is not known for certain.

At the present time it is not known whether Mr. Bjork will rebuild in the spring or not, but it is not believed he will. The room occupied by F. H. Hutchings can be fixed up so it would be habitable and it is more than likely that it will be repaired and Mr. Hutchings will open for business again in a few weeks. This is the second fire that Mr. Hutchings has passed through in less than a year, his other place burning down in the conflagration of May 30, 1914.

What Mr. Violette's intentions are is not known at this time. At the time of the fire he was at North Bend, Wash., his former home, settling up some business matters. Storerooms are scarce at the present time and it is likely he will have some trouble in finding a place to open up in business again.

Chas. Nickell has stored the rescued goods from his store in the Mayor building where he may again engage in business.

The Echo Eleven Years Old Today

This number of The Echo concludes the eleventh volume. Eleven years ago the present publisher issued the first number. There have been many changes since January 1904. The population was then about 400. The present population is 2500. January 1, 1904, there was not a brick building in Leavenworth. At this time there are forty or fifty substantial brick and concrete business houses. Comparatively few of those who lived here then are still with us. Many have removed, and quite a considerable number have passed to that bourne from whence no traveler yet returned. Leavenworth is not so much the frontier town it was eleven years ago. From the boisterous age of boyhood it has passed to young manhood, and is more staid and sedate. We modestly believe all the changes have been in the right direction. They made for better living conditions and the welfare and uplift of its inhabitants. If The Echo has had any part in the movement, if it has been a help rather than a clog in all that makes for material and spiritual welfare, then it has fulfilled the aims of the publisher, and will, we hope, continue to receive that generous support and patronage in the future that has been given it in the past. If, however, in the opinion of its readers, it has failed in the mission on which its publisher set out, then it will not deserve, and can not expect hearty support. Having an abiding faith in the discriminating judgment of our readers, and in the justness of their decision, we are prepared to accept the verdict, whatever time may show it to be. If it is favorable The Echo will continue to prosper and grow as Leavenworth prospers and grows. If its efforts are along approved lines it should also grow in influence for good. If it does not grow and prosper that will be evidence strong as proof of Holy Writ that it has not met with the approval of its readers and patrons, and does not deserve support, and should pass into innocuous desuetude, perhaps be handed over to the sexton of the newspaper graveyard for interment.

With quite as rosy an outlook on the future prospects of Leavenworth as we had eleven years ago, the wish is here expressed that 1915, on the first step of which we stand today, may bring to each and all of you

YOUR HEART'S DESIRE

LOST HIS LIFE IN FIRE TUESDAY NIGHT

John Johnson, Old Time Blewett Miner, Overcome by Smoke

John Johnson, who came here Tuesday from Blewett after supplies which were to be taken to his camp the following day, lost his life in the Overland hotel fire. He was fifty-four years old and came from Sweden. For over twenty years he had been following placer mining about Blewett, where he with John Heavner, his partner, own valuable property. At least, it always supplied them with enough gold to meet all their wants. This we know because they always had money and paid their bills. On several occasions Johnson exhibited a buckskin poke full of nuggets. In speaking to or of either Johnson or Heavner, people invariably spoke in the plural sense, so inseparable were they. For more than twenty years if you saw one you could be sure the other was near. Johnson was a frontier character, and the partnership between him and Heavner would have furnished a good subject for the pen of Mark Twain. Hardworking, generous and kindly, he and his partner would come down from the hills three or four times each year for change and diversion. They might even indulge moderately in "The cup

that cheers," but were never known to offend any one or get into trouble.

He took a room in the Overland Tuesday night and was assigned to No. 15. When the body was found yesterday morning it was concluded that he must have endeavored to get out and was overcome by smoke in one of the halls.

The coroner took charge of the remains which consisted of the skull and a few charred bones.

Good Roads Meeting, Cashmere, Jan. 5.

The most important subject to come before the annual meeting of the Chelan County Good Roads association will be, how best and most quickly to complete Chelan county's link in the Scenic Highway between Leavenworth and Cascade tunnel. Considerable work was done on this road last year but to bring it to passable condition for travel when tourists begin to come this way from the eastern states to attend the two California expositions will require some definite plan and considerable hard work.

The general adoption of what is known as the King Drag for improving our dirt roads will also be discussed. A movement will also be launched to ask the county commissioners to gravel certain county roads. Those interested should attend the meeting which promises to be interesting.

"The Trey of Hearts" starts at the Grand Theatre next Tuesday. The picture that you will all like.

To Purify Water

If you are not sure about the drinking water in a strange place try this method of safeguarding yourself. Take a level teaspoonful of chloride of lime and rub it up until there are no lumps in a teacup of water. Dilute this with three cupfuls of water and keep this stock solution in a stoppered bottle for use. A teaspoonful of this added to a two-gallon pail of water and well stirred up will destroy all typhoid or other dysentery producing bacilli in ten minutes and will make the water safe to drink.

CREAMERY MEETING SATURDAY JANUARY 9

Organization Committee Ready to Report that all Preliminaries Have Been Settled

The creamery organization committee appointed at the meeting held Friday, Dec. 18, Messrs. Jacobsen, McIntosh, Rutherford, Elliott and Van Brocklin, has held several meetings and will be ready to make a full report to the meeting to be held Saturday, January 9, at 2 p. m., when final action will most likely be taken. A very comprehensive plan of organization is outlined. It is proposed to incorporate a co-operative creamery with a capital stock of \$5,000, \$4,000 of which is to be issued at once, in shares of \$50 each. In order to help finance the movement a lot of the town people will be asked to take stock.

Let every rancher who is interested in the movement to establish a creamery attend the meeting Saturday, Jan. 9, at 2 p. m., in the Scenic theatre.

LEAVENWORTH COUPLE HAVE GOLDEN WEDDING

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Albright Were Married 50 Years Last Sunday--Still Hearty and Hale

Last Sunday marked the fiftieth wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Albright of this city and on Monday evening they celebrated their golden wedding in grand style. Early in the evening they were surprised by between forty and fifty of their friends who tendered them a charivari. They were the recipients of many beautiful and handsome presents. Mr. and Mrs. Albright came here from Kansas in 1904 and first made their home on a ranch in the Chumstick valley. A few years later they moved into this city where they have since resided.

Mr. Albright, who is 73 years of age and his wife 69, were married at Clarington, Ohio, on Dec. 27, 1864. They lived there which was the home of Mrs. Albright's parents, for many years. Afterwards they went to Illinois from there to Kansas, and then to Washington. Mr. Albright was born in Germany.

The old people who have rounded out their three score and ten years are still in the best of health and are planning on living many years yet to come. Six children were born to this union, of whom three are now living, two daughters and one son. The two daughters, Mrs. Sexton Carlquist of Portland and Mrs. Tom Darling of Wenatchee were here for the anniversary, but a son who resides in Oregon was unable to be here on account of sickness. That Mr. and Mrs. Albright may live to celebrate their diamond wedding is the wish of their many friends.

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL

Arranged With Lam-Davis Lumber Co. to Supply the City With Water

On request of the mayor the council met in special session Monday at three o'clock. The matter they were brought together to discuss and take action on was the water system, and buying electric apparatus to thaw out iron service pipes of water users who have been without water for the past few weeks. Besides Mayor Woldenberg, councilmen Wheeler, Motteler, Miller, Hamilton and Sauer were present. City Engineer Barnum was also present with a sketch showing just where the supply pipes from the Icicle river were thought to be frozen. It appears from his statement that some two or three thousand feet of the supply pipe is most likely frozen solid. He made a statement that the whole pipeline in the canyon and part of the way down through the flat should be taken up and relaid so as to cut out low places where the water will not discharge when the water is cut off at the headgates of the system. He also advocated putting from three to five discharge valves at different places along the line so that the pipe line could be drained easily and promptly. The cost of these large valves would be somewhere about fifty or seventy-five dollars each. After considerable discussion about the advisability of trying to open up the city pipe line from the intake, and the cost of this work during the freezing weather, the matter was left up in the air. Some of the councilmen were in favor of leaving the pipes until they thaw out in the spring and take water from the Lamb-Davis Lumber Co., as it might involve the city in several thousand dollars expense and result in failure. Finally an arrangement was entered into whereby the city will be supplied with water from the mill company's system at a cost of \$225 per month. In the meantime the city engineer will make plans and present an estimate of the cost of putting the system in what he believes would be a satisfactory and safe condition. On this proposition councilmen Motteler, Miller and Hamilton voted yes and Councilman Wheeler no.

About this time a most startling and unfortunate condition developed. It appeared that the original plans of the water system, which should be on file with the city clerk, had disappeared and can not be found, so that it is impossible to tell whether the system was built according to plans and specifications. Clerk Potter says he does not know anything about the plans, that they were never in his possession when he took over the office.

The purchasing agent was instructed to buy two transformers for the use of thawing out water service pipes, of which some sixty are reported frozen up so that users can not get water. The two transformers are to cost in the neighborhood of \$125.

Enormous quantities of ice have been put up in the past ten days. The ice is eight and ten inches thick. Never before has ice formed in December thick enough to put up.

The greatest serial motion picture ever produced, "The Trey of Hearts" starts at the Grand Theatre next Tuesday. Don't fail to see it. 52*