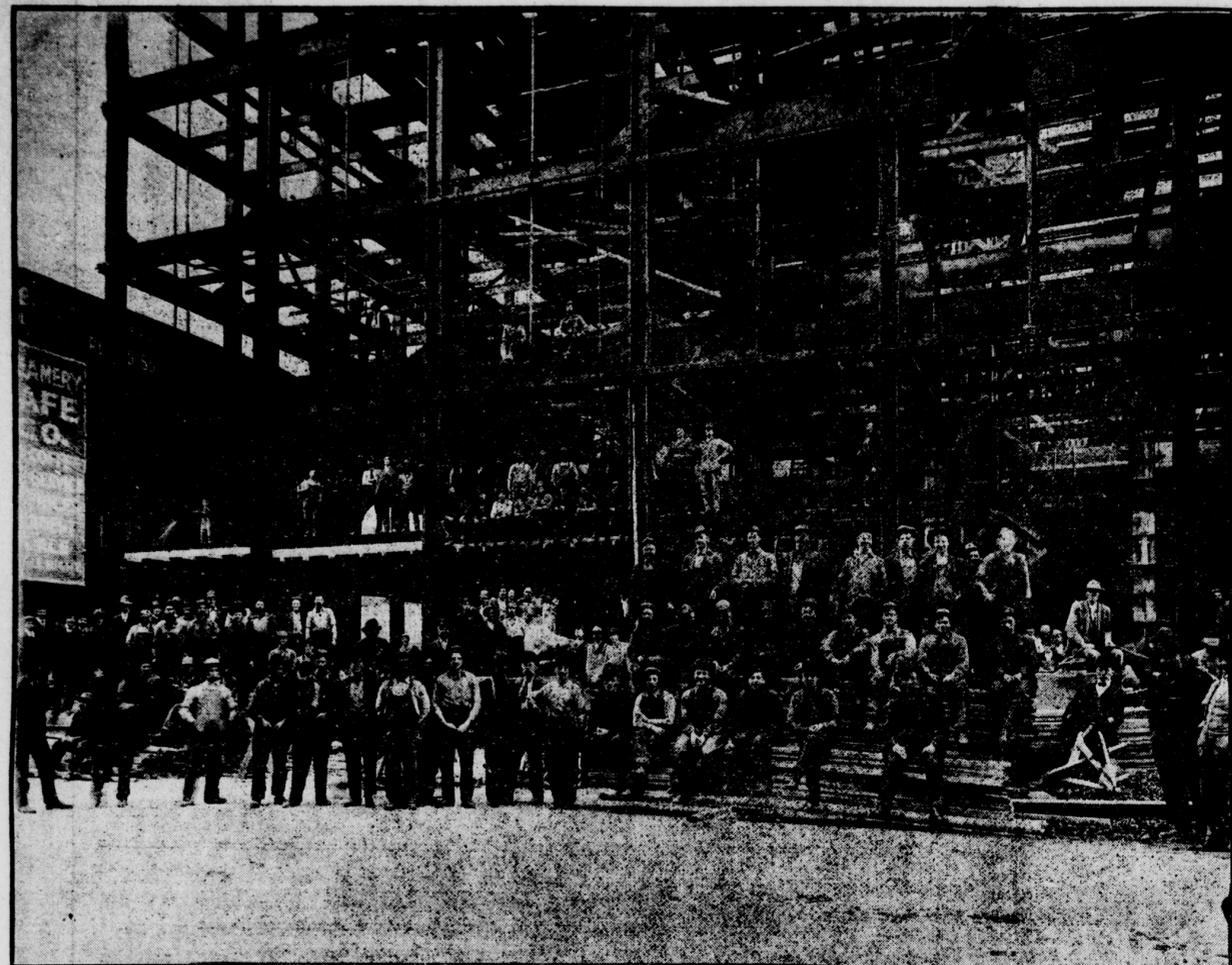


THRILLING LIFE OF SPOKANE'S DARING SKYSCRAPER BUILDERS

STORY OF STRUCTURAL BUILDERS' UNION TOLD VIVIDLY FOR PRESS READERS—SAILORS DON'T "HOLD A CANDLE" TO THESE MEN—OLDEST WORKER LIVES HERE.



Structural Iron Workers' Union No. 14 of Spokane, gathered from buildings all over the city, for a Press photo taken at the Old National Bank building, Riverside and Stevens street. This union three years ago had only a sufficient number of members to hold a charter, and less than a half dozen of them were to be found in the city. The union now has a membership of nearly 100, showing the rapidly increasing demand for men of this occupation in modern building construction.

BY M. MILTON WINANS. death for a living—something that shop more interesting to the inex- columns, high above the street and the resounding building steel and must be born and not made it is maintain that the world owes to streets, in leisure hours, than that beams, with life in the balance the "rat-a-tat-tat" of the compressed air riveter, like a giant woodpecker, way up there in the net-work of heavy iron, is fascinating that of the structural ironworker, every man. Perhaps there is no of the man who toils for his daily bread at the top of narrow steel Clanging of heavy hammers on

It is like a strange and thrilling play being enacted on a great open air stage. Ironworkers are the performers and entertainers and the passing public of the streets are the audiences. People grow fond of standing in the congested thoroughfares watching these unknown stars on their perilous heights of their strange stage and listening to the medley of busy sounds. They gather around scenes of construction to watch like excited attendants at an animal circus about the cage of a ferocious, man-eating beast, when the daring trainer, armed with whip and revolver, enters to subdue and to drill him for the entertainment of the throngs.

Little do they realize that those busy fellows up there, clothed in simple garments and soiled with the grime of honest toil, are constantly in more danger of death than the silken coated trainer, as he lashes his whip and shouts before the snarling, untamable beast of the forest. One second of weakness, one misstep, one misunderstanding of signals, the snapping of one strand of line or cable, stretched tight across the great, trembling hoisting boom, the breaking of a single bolt or a slip of the rattling riveter generally means death to one—oftentimes to many more.

A peep into the record of human lives taken in toils by the grim destroyer lurking about the iron skeletons of our great buildings and bridges over the Pacific northwest is convincing enough of the hazard at which these men labor.

ONE HORRIBLE BRIDGE CATASTROPHE.

Memories of the horrible catastrophe in Cornwall, Ont., in September, 1897, when the great steel bridge, which was intended to span the St. Lawrence river, was wrecked, pitching 32 struggling bridgemen to certain death in the water over a hundred feet below is still vivid to the minds of hundreds. A number of the survivors of that awful event are working on steel building structure in Spokane now and among them is J. H. Corcoran, business agent of local Structural Iron Workers' union No. 14. Corcoran was just leaving the bridge and was near the shore when the deafening crash and shriek of breaking and twisting steel came mingling in a hideous chorus with the last cries of the helpless victims. He fell nearly 90 feet and when he opened his eyes three days later he found himself in a hospital. He could scarcely believe that he had been spared. Much of that old wreck still lies as it fell, and under it all, somewhere, rest the remains of many of the bridgemen, beneath 40 some feet of water.

HEAVY PREMIUMS ON LIFE INSURANCE.

Lives of ironworkers are so fraught with danger that many of the insurance companies and fraternal societies and organizations refuse them insurance policies. The Chicago Casualty Co., which in years past has made a specialty of insuring the lives of workmen places the premium on the life insurance of ironworkers at \$5 per \$1000 per month, and the Knights of Columbus, a Catholic fraternal organization, is declared to refuse memberships to men of this occupation.

A structural ironworker's career is generally short, a few years of active work at the trade usually being the extent of it, for unstead-

ness comes with years and unsteadiness is fatal in this hazardous vocation.

MORRISSETT OLDEST IRONWORKER IN U. S.

Albert Morrisett, now working on the Old National Bank building, in course of construction at the corner of Stevens street and Riverside avenue, is perhaps the oldest man in the whole United States actively working at the structural ironworker's trade. Morrisett is past 60 years of age and, in striking contrast to his long service, it is said that he has suffered no bad accident during the 36 years he has been engaged in the work.

Dave Hanlon, also in Spokane at the present time, is another of the old pioneers in the trade. Hanlon was badly injured in a building accident over in Montana a few months ago and has but recently recovered. Hanlon and Morrisett are two of the oldest men in the trade known to structural ironworkers of Spokane. From 10 to 14 years is given as a fair average of the time of service for men in this occupation, either on bridges or buildings.

TRICKS AT EVERY FEATURE OF TRADE.

There are tricks to be learned in all features of the trade and one must learn them by experience before becoming efficient. The most reckless sailor, accustomed to working high up among the riggings of a rocking and pitching ship on the ocean, cannot keep his equilibrium up among the columns and crossbeams of a building, or out on a bridge in course of construction above a river. This is only more evidence that one must be born, not made, for the structural ironworker's job.

Stand and watch the man at the little forge, and with his tongs hurling rivets heated to a glowing whiteness to men on the upper floors. How they hiss through the

air, with almost bullet's speed, leaving a sputtering trail of fire behind them! Well, just that is one of the most difficult and important tricks of the trade to be learned. That throw must be accurate, for the man up on top must catch those rivets in a tin can or a bucket and chuck them in place in the joints between crossbeams and columns while they are still hot. The automatic riveter may batter their ends while the metal in them is still soft.

BAD THROWS OFTIMES FATAL.

A bad throw by the heater may cause the man on top with the can to be hurled off the building and will at least cause the loss of time. Time is one of the most valuable things about such a busy place, for the workmen are being paid according to time, the contractor is working against time, like the man at the throttle of a railroad engine running according to schedule, and no time can be spared to inefficiency.

RIVET HEATING AN ART.

Rivet heating and pitching is an art of which few become really masters. Among the most expert heaters here in Spokane, working in the big buildings, are Jack Doyle, Joe Lindquist, J. H. Little, Jim Haskins and Frank Hendricks. Most any of these men, it is said, are able to pitch a white-heated rivet with a pair of tongs accurately for a distance of nearly 100 feet.

Many deaths occur on high buildings from mere unexpected gusts of wind catching the workmen when they are not securely balanced. Ofttimes sparks from the heated bolts have been known to sever the ropes bearing scaffolding on which several men may be working, sending them all to the floor below. In truth they are lucky if there is a floor just below them on which to fall.

Dr. J. Edward Lydon

has proven the power of the great modern method of driving disease out of the body, and proved that the

MECHANO-THERAPY

treatment is without doubt the simplest and most effective way to restore health and strength to any person, no matter how long you have been sick.

Send for Booklet.

Dr. J. Edward Lydon

MECHANO-THERAPIST

310-311 Auditorium. Phone Main 3206

\$20.00

All Clothes Made in Our Own Shop Here in Spokane

\$20.00

3 Days Only

We have decided to close out all our Finest Imported and Domestic Woolens that we sold regularly up to \$35.00 and \$45.00 for

\$20.00 a Suit

WE MAKE EVERYTHING TO YOUR OWN MEASURE. SKELETON TRY-ON, IN FACT DOUBLE TRY-ON, BEFORE FINISHED. WE EMPLOY SPOKANE LABOR, SPOKANE CUTTERS AND FITTERS, SPOKANE JOURNEYMAN TAILORS. WE WANT YOUR TRADE AND WILL GO A LONG WAYS TO SUIT OUR CUSTOMERS. WHEN WE BOUGHT THE BUSINESS FROM THE AMERICAN GENTLEMEN TAILORS WE PUT IN OUR OWN SHOP, ON OUR OWN PREMISES, RIGHT UNDER OUR OWN SUPERVISION. WE HAVE BEEN IN SPOKANE FOR THE LAST 20 YEARS AND WE WILL GUARANTEE EVERYTHING THAT WE MAKE AS TO CLOTH, FIT AND WORKMANSHIP.

REMEMBER, NOTHING WILL BE RESERVED AT THIS SALE—EVERYTHING IN THE HOUSE WILL GO. FOR THREE DAYS ONLY,

Saturday, Monday and Tuesday, Suit to Order \$20

CHOICE OF BLACK BROADCLOTH, SCOTCH TWEEDS, FANCY WORSTEDS, TWEEDS IN THEIR VERY LATEST SHADES, AND OVER TEN THOUSAND YARDS OF IMPORTED AND DOMESTIC WOOLENS TO SELECT FROM. THIS IS THE GREATEST SACRIFICE EVER MADE BY ANY MERCHANT TAILORING FIRM IN THE LAND. COME EARLY AND PICK THE BEST—MAKE YOUR OWN CHOICE—COME AND WAIT ON YOURSELF. WE WILL HAVE OUR CUTTERS MEASURE YOU AND LET US SAVE YOU FROM TEN TO TWENTY DOLLARS ON YOUR SPRING SUIT. REMEMBER, THIS SALE IS FOR THREE DAYS ONLY. FIRST COME FIRST SERVED—COME EARLY AND AVOID THE RUSH.

WE HAVE ALSO BOUGHT FROM THE AMERICAN GENTLEMEN TAILORS ABOUT TWO HUNDRED SUITS THAT THEY MADE UP FOR SOME SPOKANE PEOPLE AND THE CUSTOMERS DID NOT CALL FOR THEM. WE WILL SELL THESE TWO HUNDRED UNCALLED-FOR SUITS FOR \$10.00 AND \$12.50. SOME OF THESE SUITS WERE MADE FOR AS HIGH AS \$40.00, AND IF WE HAVE YOUR SIZE WE WILL FIT YOU FOR \$10.00 OR \$12.50. THIS IS LESS THAN YOU CAN BUY A CHEAP HAND-ME-DOWN. THERE ARE SOME VERY FINE ALL WOOL FANCY WORSTEDS, BLUE SERGES AND SCOTCH TWEEDS AMONG THEM. AS WE HAVE ONLY A LIMITED NUMBER OF THESE SUITS ON HAND IT WILL BE WELL FOR THOSE WHO WANT TO SAVE MONEY TO COME EARLY.

American Gentleman Tailors

412 Sprague Avenue

Spokane, Washington

412 Sprague Avenue

