

Weird Story of One of the Strangest and Most Pathetic Funerals on Record When the Bodies of Thirty-Seven Miners Were Buried in Frozen Northland

Aftermath of Disaster Of Which Outside World Heard All But Nothing

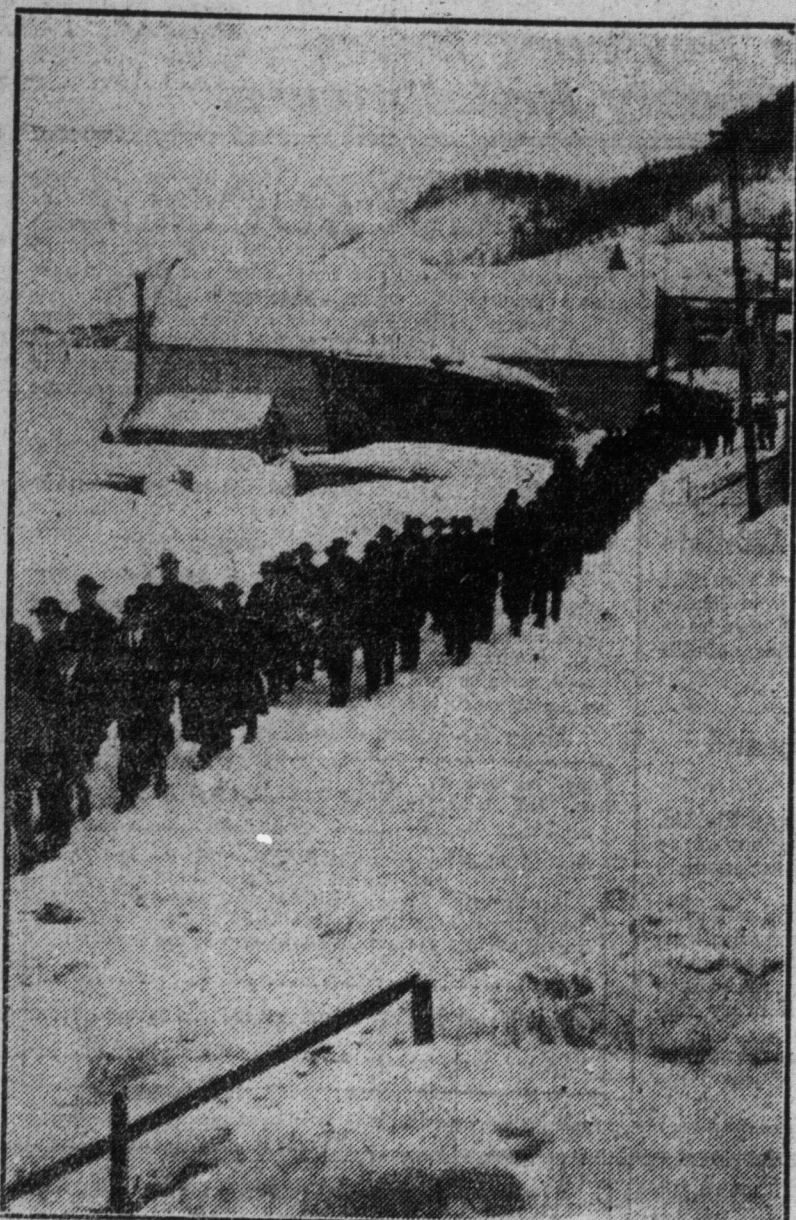
It is Big Undertaking to Dig One Grave in the North in Winter and in This Case the Task Was Overwhelming.

DOUGLAS, Alaska, March 26.—(Special.)—The funeral of the 37 miners who met death in the explosion in the Treadwell mine here on the night of March 2, 1910, was like nothing else in the history of Christian burials, and yet lacked nothing of those tributes by which we seek to soothe the pain of death. There have been quartz mine catastrophes of greater magnitude, and very many have been the coal mine disasters where the number of the victims seem few by comparison, but never before, even in the wilds of Alaska, where the facilities for Christian burial are so primitive and in the winter so difficult, have there been so many victims of a single accident, nor the funeral ingenuity of man so taxed.

Hard to Dig Graves.
A single burial in Alaska in winter, even in Southeastern Alaska, is fraught with difficulties. The ground itself is frozen to a considerable depth, and often the heavy snows are half thawed and then frozen. There is then the difficulty of conveying the dead to the cemetery, over unused and often hardly passable trails, in a country which is so sparsely settled, death is an infrequent visitor, and where hearers are unknown.

On the day following the disaster, while the dead were being prepared for burial at the hospital, a corps of Tlingit-Indians, under the direction of Robert Kinzie, superintendent of the Treadwell Company, were fighting their way thru the ice and frozen ground, digging graves in the little cemetery which has sufficed for Douglas Island for 20 years. It was a slow process, but the task was completed on time.

The men were buried in four funerals. The first occurred from the Church of Our Lady of the Mines on Saturday morning, two days after the catastrophe, and from here nine bodies were taken to their final resting place. From the church door to the edge of the city the caskets were borne by the comrades of the dead men, and the population of Douglas Island followed on foot. At the city limits the cortege halted, for here the trail narrowed. A thin path had been broken and beaten down by the Indians and those of the white men who directed them. The white men were the only feet which had tread their way to the cemetery, since the snow had fallen, here dog sleds waited—such as the



FROM THE CHURCH TO THE OUTSKIRTS OF THE TOWN OF DOUGLAS THE DEAD MINERS WERE BORNE BY THEIR COMRADES.

How Girls to Marry

The Members of "Havana" Octette More Fortunate Than Their Sisters of Florodora—Name—June Brides Will Wear June Roses.

Isn't it nice to be a "Hello Girl," to be admired, winned and dined by nobility and all the swell set throughout the world.

These lucky girls who comprise the octette with "Havana," the London and New York musical comedy of which James T. Powers is the star, are happy.

The company has left the New York Casino, which place has been their home for two seasons and will be seen here next week. This heavy of news-boys' headlines has the original "Florodora Sextette" beaten before they start. The fact is that the octette of the "Havana" musical show bids fair to achieve a greater amount of fame and fortune than befell the lucky "Florodora Sextette." In fact, "Jim-

my" Powers thinks his girls are all members of Royalty, or will be some day. Talk about striking it rich—well that is precisely the idea in the case of the "Hello Girls" who nightly sing:

"Hello, people, people hello! These girls from London town: Each one dressed just like the rest In just a simple gown. They didn't mind much where they went Yet each was bent and quite content On dreaming of this little text: Where shall we go next? Hello People."

It looks very much as if Edith Kelly, who was the leader of the now famous "Hello People" will "go to" Frank Gould.

She is an English girl, nineteen years old and stunning. Young as she is, this is not the first affair of the heart in which she has figured. When she was only sixteen she became engaged to an English millionaire gunpowder manufacturer, but the affair lapsed somehow.

Then Edith went on the stage and began breaking new hearts in a work that she earned pounds in a month. The voice of destiny whispered in her

ear, "Go West, sweet maid, go west," and she went as far west as Broadway, and Thirty-ninth-street, where she appeared as the leader of the Octette. Her beauty was lauded along the Great White Way, and soon came to the ear of Frank Gould, whose divorce has left him again detached. Nearly every night thereafter he was to be found in the front row, and when he chanced to meet the sparkling Edith, she was amiable and charming.

This summer when Miss Kelly visited London, Frank Gould was not very far away. In fact, they were soon so much together that a report came from the exclusive Savoy Hotel, that "Frank Gould and his American bride had registered."

Every one remembers Edith Hamilton, the fair Brooklyn girl of "Florodora" fame, who was recently chosen by Harrison Fisher as the model in the new Harrison Fisher girl.

In the "Florodora" sextette at one time was Dessa Gibson, who gave Charles Dana Gibson the inspiration and furnished the type for his well-known "Gibson widow." Dessa Gibson afterward became engaged to the Marquis di Rudini, son of a former Italian prime minister, but the engagement was broken off.

A good many of the girls who at one time or another appeared in the famous sextette of "Florodora" subsequently became famous leading ladies, and the "Havana" octette seems to be just as auspicious a nursery for budding Modestas and Bernhards.

Against Daisy Green, the effie "Florodora" collection, Daisy became a prima donna to be sure, but pretty Caroline Green of "Havana" fame married a Colorado millionaire.

Then there was Edna Croxton, who is the daughter of Edward M. Steck, the millionaire coal dealer. When Edna was sixteen, she eloped with Warren W. Croxton, a well-known railway man, but she repented and went on the stage. She had the same fever to had that her younger sister, Helen caught it, and both of them set out for New York, with an irate father in close pursuit.

Both of the parents had originally been opposed to the stage aspiration of their daughters, but the mother had ultimately acquiesced. Little Helen had just been initiated into all the glories of her dream when her determined father appeared breathlessly behind the scenes and forbade her to go on. Mr. Steck was a big man, and Helen, the determined, was very slight. Helen did not go on, but Edna, being older, was allowed to proceed with her part. And she sang that "Where shall we go next?" so prettily, that a well-known wealthy New Yorker lost no opportunity to cultivate her acquaintance. His attentions were very persistent, and it is at present a dark secret, the fact is that before long Edna will get her divorce and her marriage to the broker will be immediately announced.

Cecile Mayo, a pretty member of the octette comes of a good old New England family. They like most families are opposed to the stage and they have

traveler in Alaska carries his winter stores upon his sleds, and he rushes thru the great white silence.

Here the bodies were laid carefully upon the sleds, and made fast.

Walking Single File.
For the most part, the men drawing the sleds walked single file, and if one stepped a few inches to the right or left his feet dropped thru the crust of the snow. They proceeded carefully, however, and the sad journey of a mile or more was made without accident.

On the same afternoon, the bodies of 17 Montenegrins, Slavonians and Austrians were buried from the Russian Church in the same manner. That afternoon nearly every dog sled was needed.

On Sunday following the other two funerals took place, one from the Congregational Church and one from the Swedish Lutheran.

The cause of the catastrophe is still a profound mystery. The powder magazines in all the mines owned by the Treadwell Company are located near the shafts, conforming to the rules of good mining engineering—since the disaster in the Butte mine, when the magazine was located some distance from the shaft, exploded, filling the drift with gases and cutting off from escape the miners who were at work in the stope beyond where the explosion had occurred. To avoid this, the Treadwell mines, where nothing is omitted which can make human life more secure, all the magazines on all the levels are located near the shafts, so that the fumes will go up the shaft, and the danger of cutting off the workers from escape is obviated.

A number of quartz mine explosions have occurred in other mines thru the practice of thawing powder (which is always frozen in the winter) by candles in the mine. This practice is not permitted in any of the Treadwell mines, and the powder is thawed by steam on the surface, and brought to the magazine on each level in sufficient quantities for one day's use only.

When Explosion Occurred.

The powder magazine on each level is a room blasted out of solid rock, heavily timbered at one end, equipped with a steel grated door which is kept locked except at certain times when the powder is issued to the men. The last time at which powder should have been issued from the magazine on the night of March 2, was a few minutes after 10 o'clock, and under the custom of the stope bosses and orders of the company, at 11:30, when the explosion occurred, the iron door should have been locked, and the stope bosses should have been at the shaft, ready to superintend the entering of the cage by the men, who are taken to the surface every night at this hour for supper. There is every reason to believe that the door was locked, and the stope bosses at the shaft.

Had the explosion occurred at any other time in the night, had it happened a few minutes earlier or a few minutes later, not more than a few lives would have been lost. As it was, but one man escaped from death, which was instantaneous, or nearly so. The explosion did not take place until all work had been suspended, and

Like Nothing Else In History of Christian Burials—A Strange Story

Ground Frozen Hard Had To Be Blasted Out In Windrows—Path Over Hard Trails Thru Rough Country.



DRAWING THE CASKETS ON THE DOG SLEDS ALONG THE NARROW TRAIL.

the men assembled at the shaft, waiting to ascend.

No theory which regards the explosion as an accident has been advanced which will satisfactorily account for all the conditions which are known to have existed at the time of the disaster. A strike was instituted against the Treadwell Company by the Western Federation of Miners three years ago, and when the strike failed, there were many threats, but there is no evidence, except the circumstances related above, of foul play, and this theory of the disaster is not acceptable to the management.

Only Four Were Married.
Fortunately, out of the thirty-seven men who lost their lives, only four were married and only two of these have children.

The Treadwell Company has always continued on its pay roll, after death, at the same wage, the name of every married man who has been killed in the operation of its properties, paying the amount each month to the widow, and this too without regard to its legal liability. The same thing is done in the case of cripples whether married or single.

THE ARCH.

The consensus of opinion among the learned is to the effect that the arch was invented by the Romans. Some claim that Archimedes of Sicily was the inventor, while there are others who would make it to be of Etruscan origin, but there can be no doubt about the fact that the Romans were the first to apply the principle to architecture. The earliest instance of its use is in the case of the Cloaca Maxima, or Great Sewer, of Rome, built about 588 B.C. by the first of the Tarquin line of kings, a work which is regarded by the historians as being one of the most stupendous monuments of antiquity. Built entirely without cement, it is still doing duty after a service of almost twenty-five centuries.

THE FIRST COMEDY.

Thalia is the muse of comedy and lyric poetry. Socrates and Plato, supposed inventors of theatrical exhibitions, 52 B.C., performed the first comedy at Athens, on a wagon or movable stage, on four wheels, and were rewarded with a basket of figs and a cake of wine.

On Her Trial Trip.

CHESTER, Ont., March 26.—(Special.)—The new steamer Rochester passed here this afternoon on her trial trip down to southeast shore making good progress with no ice in sight.



CAREFULLY FASTENED TO THE DOG SLED, THE HEARSE OF THE "SOURDOUGH."

now that pretty Dolly cut more of a figure with him. The progress of his courtship was interrupted when Dolly returned to New York this fall, but the impulsive and hot-headed young duke is not apt to let a little thing like the Atlantic ocean separate him from the girl of his choice.

Then there is Vivian Raymond, another Brooklynite, who has profited by the example set by her "octetters." Dolly Filley and has dabbled with tickers and stocks, and she has already won a fair competence as a result of her speculations. If a "sextette" without money can marry a title, how long will it be before an "octette" with money is snapped up by some of those title-holding fortune hunting foreigners?

Verily the day of the "sextette" is done and the hour of the "octette" has struck.

SHAKSPEARE'S GREATEST PLAY.

It is impossible to say which of Shakspeare's plays is the "greatest." It is safe to say that the greatest of his productions are "The Tempest," "Julius Caesar," "Hamlet," "Lear," "Macbeth" and "Othello," but to pitch upon any one of these six, or of the others, as being the greatest would be a bit of unpardonable temerity. It is a question of individual taste and judgment. Some claim that "Hamlet" bears the palm, others are found to be in favor of giving the high honor to "Macbeth," while each one of his 15 or 20 greater plays seems the "greatest" to some people. Perhaps the most talked of, if not the most popular, of the Shakspearean dramas is "Hamlet," while the majority of the pronounced Shakspearean critics unite in pronouncing "The Tempest" to be the high-water mark of the great dramatist's wonderful genius.



FROM THE CITY LIMITS THE CASKETS WERE DRAWN ON DOG SLEDS OVER A NARROW TRAIL.



THE GRAVES, IN WINDROWS, WERE LITERALLY BLOWN OUT OF THE FROZEN GROUND BY THE TLINGIT INDIANS EMPLOYED BY THE TREADWELL MINING COMPANY.

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April 20th.

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costs you. Our special
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down your clothes

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Adelaide St. W.

Reilly Wedding.
Mr. and Mrs. Frank
very-avenue, was the
wedding last week.
After, Gertrude, was
Frank Reilly of New
M. P. Reilly, Philae-
re, Mr. Turnbull, Mr.
his daughter, who
gown of Nattier blue
with plumed hat to
a shower bouquet of
her gift from the
diamond ring. Mrs. J.H.
of honor, wore a pale
picture hat and violets
embroidered of pearls from
Burk acted as best
Mrs. Reilly left in the
honeymoon across the

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