

# Funeral Services Held for Victims of Oil Well Blast Sunday; 2000 People Attend

Conjoint funeral and memorial services, unparallaled in the history of this county, were held in St. George Stake Tabernacle at 2:00 Friday afternoon for the following victims of the explosion at the oil well, last Wednesday evening: Mr. and Mrs. C. D. Alsop, Mrs. Olive Bleak Snow, Miss Lea Cottam, Joseph Empey, Jr., his son in law, Cail Nicholson, Ray Nelson, Joseph Kitterman, William Maloney, and C. M. Fleckinger.

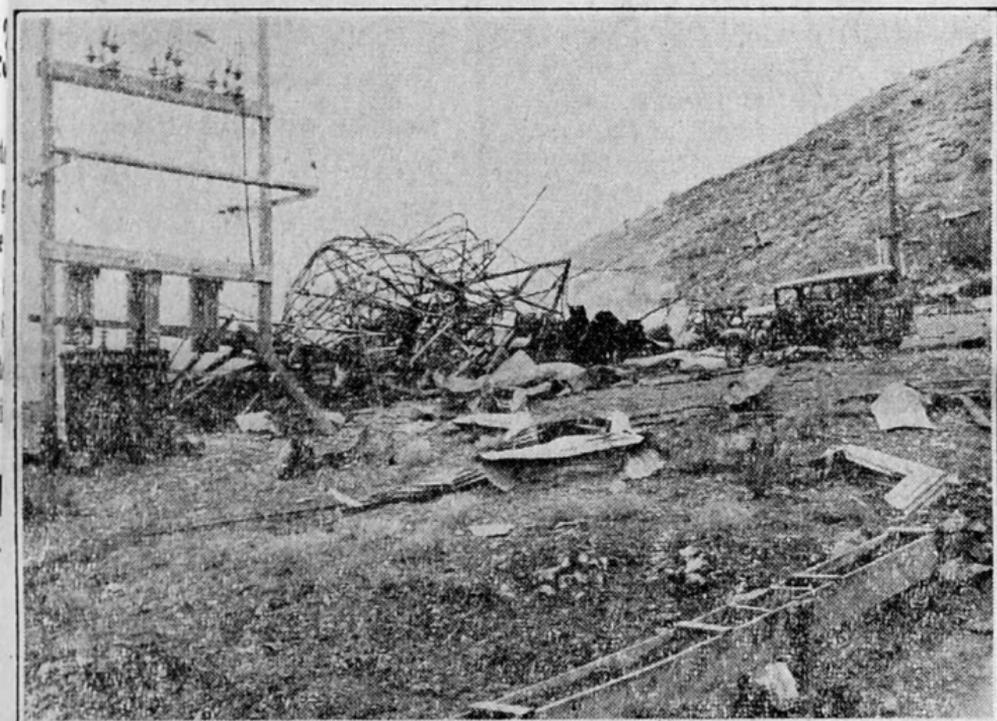
The tabernacle was packed with mourning relatives and friends and the caskets, stand and organ were covered with beautiful floral offerings. Many people stood in the aisle and on the tabernacle steps unable to get inside. Stake President William O. Bentley presided.

The opening number, "Face To Face," was given by the South Ward Quartet composed of William A. Whitehead, Mrs. Alice Cannon and Mr. and Mrs. Pratt Miles.

A beautiful and appropriate prayer was offered by Mayor John Woodbury, Jr.

A vocal solo, "Sometime We'll Understand" was sung by Dil-

ed down in sympathy. We can not offer them consolation for there are ten vacant chairs in ten homes which can not be filled. It has left orphans, widows, and widowers. I was intimately acquainted with most of these people. I acted as an attorney for Mr. Alsop. He had vision and belief and was a booster for this country. His wife was a booster with him. Joseph Empey, Jr., and myself were associated in the same company. He was an energetic man and a good husband and father. I lived on the same block with Mrs. Snow and knew her parents before she was born. Lea Cottam, a sweet, pure girl has gone to the Great Beyond. Billy Maloney speaks for himself in this community as a fine young man, honest and good. Ray Nelson, a bright, promising, young man full of hope, and now this, Cail Nicholson, a young man who came to this community with the CCC camp and has a good record and an unimpeachable character. Here he met and married Joseph Empey, Jr.'s daughter, Naomi. Mr. Kitterman had a wife, a son and daughter in Salt Lake City.



Scene at Arrowhead Petroleum well after explosion of March 6

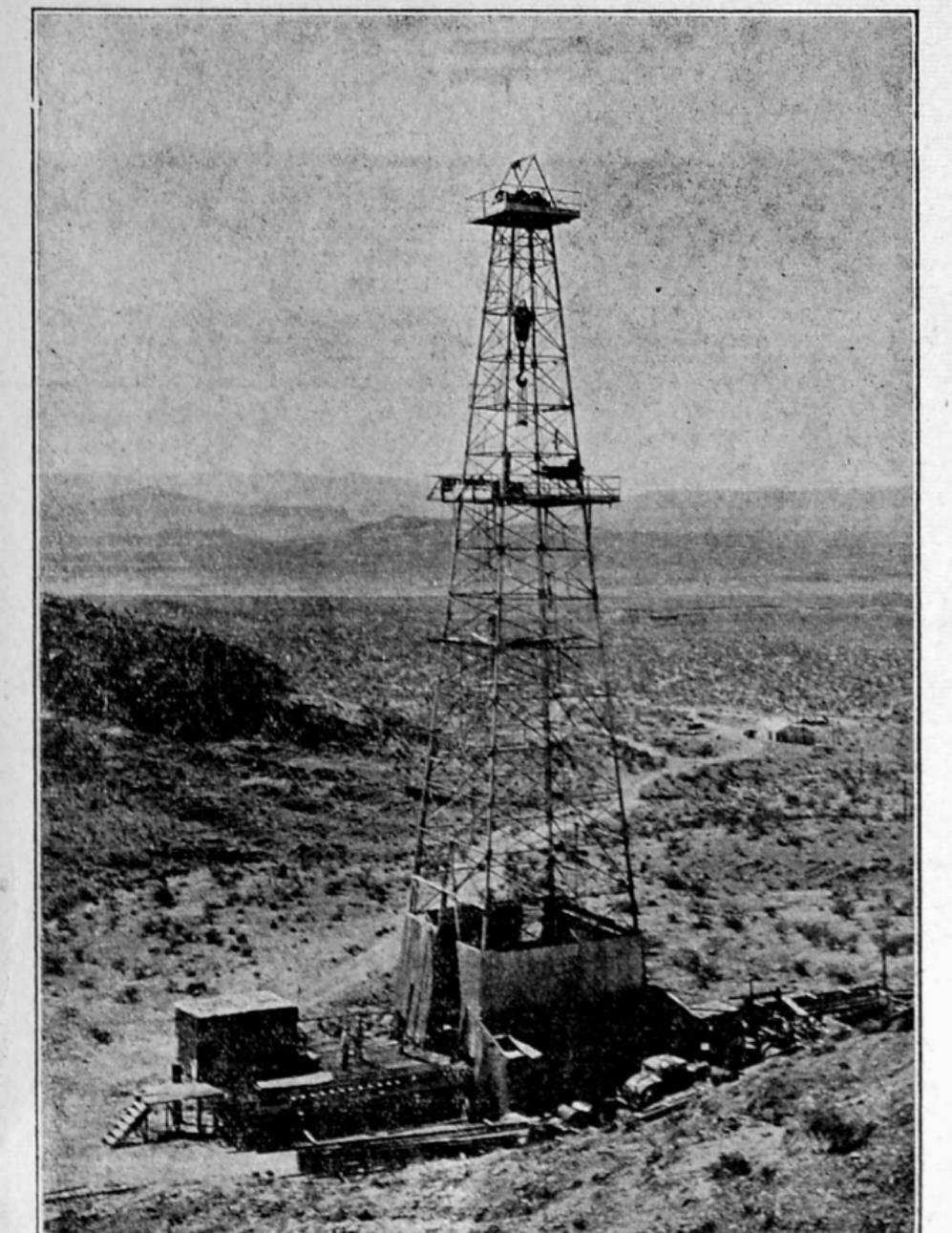
worth M. Snow, accompanied by Mrs. Mae Pace.

Elder David H. Morris, the first speaker said, "We have met here this afternoon as one family bowed down by grief and sorrow with no political, civil, social or religious differences. Never in the history of the county have we been called upon to meet such a calamity. May God grant we may never meet such another. Wednesday evening these people, now in caskets, left their homes in peace and happiness with no thought of danger or disaster and had their lives snapped out. I do not understand it, but I do know that the community is bow-

These victims are gone and there is no use to find fault or blame anyone. I have faith in the Great Beyond. The God of their spirits has called them home and I feel that whether they had gone in this way or any other way it was their time to go. We know a sparrow does not fall without God knowing it. God needed their services and called them home in conformity with his work. It seems tragic but this is not the end. May His spirit be with those who mourn and His comforting influence be with them."

Reuben J. Shay, Cedar City at-

(Continued on page four)



Rig looked before explosion

# Funeral Services Held For Victims Oil Well Blast--2000 Present

(Continued from first page)

torney, spoke for Mr. Aisop, a brother Mason. He said in part, "I first became acquainted with this good man in 1922 at Cedar City, during my first year of my sojourn in Southern Utah. He inspired me with the untold virtue and wealth of that, then to me, unknown land which he was pleased to call 'Dixie'.

Mr. Shay went on to say, "At this sad occasion, it is not my purpose to deliver a personal eulogy of this good man, who no longer answers when his name is called. He was an American citizen, responsive to every duty of citizenship within the limitations of the power with which he was endowed. Whatever be his accomplishments, we are his treasurers. It devolves upon us to cherish his good deeds, to forget his imperfections and to inscribe his name on the tablets of love and memory. As he was true to every one of us let us be true to him." He then quoted a beautiful poem comparing his death to the going to the spirit shores by boat and told how wonderful it was to know that when we too crossed the bar that our loved ones would be there waiting for us.

In closing Mr. Shay extended his tenderest feelings of heartfelt sympathy to all of the relatives and friends of the victims of the catastrophe.

A violin duet, "One Fleeting Hour," was played by Mrs. Vera S. Christian and Earl J. Bleak. They were accompanied by Mrs. Bleak on the piano.

In speaking of the beautiful song, "Face to Face," Dr. Wilford J. Reichmann said, "If the author never accomplished anything else he made a name for himself with this song. Its a testimony to all humanity. It matters not what religion, what church, we know within ourselves that we will live again." He went on to say that, "When the Master calls, we respond and no force on earth can keep us here. We live in deeds and not in words. What I say can't affect those gone but it can help those living." He then quoted from Wm. Cullen Bryant's poem, "Thanatopsis" and pleaded with the people to so live that when their time came to go, they might go peacefully, even though death came violently. He went on to point out that we could wrap ourselves in our good deeds and go home pleasantly. Dr. Reichmann closed his talk by praying that God would bless those who mourn for their loved ones and that those who were weak might receive solace and that we might all be better for the privilege we had had of associating with those who had been called home.

"My heart goes out to all who are called to mourn," said George W. Worthen. "The love of the gospel makes our lot easier." He then quoted from Rev. 20:13 on the resurrection and stated "No matter how the body is buried, no matter in what condition, it will be gathered together." Mr. Worthen then quoted from Ezekial, Chapter 37 telling how the bones there were gathered together and covered with sinews flesh and skin and become a great nation. He continued by speaking on the atonement and on the creation, eternal life and the hereafter, and mentioned that the spirit of all of us lived before we came to this earth and will live afterward. "If we live to meet these," said Mr.

Worthen, "we will have the privilege. I loved these people who have been called home; I loved their records their work and their lives. God loves his children here to work out our salvation. In closing he prayed that God would bless those called to mourn the loss of loved ones and hoped they would seek the Lord in prayer.

A vocal duet, "Come and Rest," was rendered by Viola Gentry and Mamie Price.

W. W. McArthur of the Presidency spoke on the occasion. It brought us who believe in a Personal God with our hopes and passions, and declared that we are His children and that He has come on through millions of years to come. "This life here," said McArthur, is only a small period of the great eternal existence here is not valued for the time we live but how we live. We have now passed through the greatest disaster in this section. When the first settled here they were here prematurely through the necessities of life, and came among them because of lack of food and clothing. Never before have we had such an experience as this. Ten of the finest snapped out. Some were buried two in a coffin. But the Lord will comfort the bereaved ones and let them know that death is only a passing. Ray and Billy were our prospects for leadership in this district. Billy always came to the bank with a smile, Ray had the same bright countenance and stood behind the counter. Cail for his quiet, reserved and kned he'd be fine with such a good family. That he went through school with Joseph and how much he loved baseball, often cheering him on to victory. Mattie, his wife, says she spent twenty years with Joseph and how she could carry on now that he has been snapped out. His splendid little wife, she lives, as I hope she will know she will she will be again for life eternal.

Laurence Wadsworth expressed sympathy for those bereaved. He stated he would rather see this great tragedy as a first step in human progress. "The blood," said Mr. Wadsworth, "surged through the veins of Maloney. His people were on the frontier full of vital courage and lived where they needed courage. Billy came in happy, courageous and cheerful always ready to help to give. He's given his life to others, for human progress. He was an advance guard of a greater world to live. Ray, every body loved him, Cail, Lea, full of vigor. The bits have been gathered into the desert but they were gathered together out of the desert by God who created them and gathered them together. And the women of middle age were gathered together and brought it into our district. They were our neighbors, friends and are entitled to respect and love. They shall be raised up for their reward, not in vain."

Mrs. Anne R. Price read James Whitcomb's poem, "Away."

Orval Hafen of the State Agency read telegrams that have been received from the Enterprise, Cedar City. Walter Granger of the Representatives, Governor President Grant, Salt Lake Chamber of Commerce, House and Senate of Utah, and President of the and Parowan Stakes.

President Bentley in the families bereaved, their appreciation for the help they had assisted them in their bereavement. He said because of the joint service was impossible to say hundreds of fine things that he said of each of the deceased regarding their splendid character," said the President. "The families are fine. I have known them in school. This is the way we could hold services that all extend sympathy to the bereaved."

The closing number was given by the South Ward quartet. "My Father."

The closing prayer was given by Henry T. Atkin, former pastor of St. George.

Grave side services were held for C. M. Fleckinger in the morning. Mayor John T. Worthington, Jr., was in charge of the services.