

The Chamber of Commerce Fire

(and the back story of the life net)

April 6, 1906

Reported by the Oregon Journal - Compiled by Don Porth

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## **Chamber To Be Repaired At Once And Enlarged**

*Owners of Building Estimate Loss at \$100,000, While \$60,000 Will Cover Damage Suffered by the Tenants - Fire Chief Says Water Tower and Megaphones are Needed*

*Praise Heard on All Sides for Fire Department - Police Prevented Accidents - Many Acts of Heroism Marked the Day*

Business in the Chamber of Commerce Building, with the exception of the eighth floor, was resumed this morning and it was announced that repair work and the building of one additional story would begin at once. Owners of the building estimate their losses at \$100,000 as a result of the spectacular fire of yesterday, while it is estimated \$60,000 will cover the losses of the occupants.

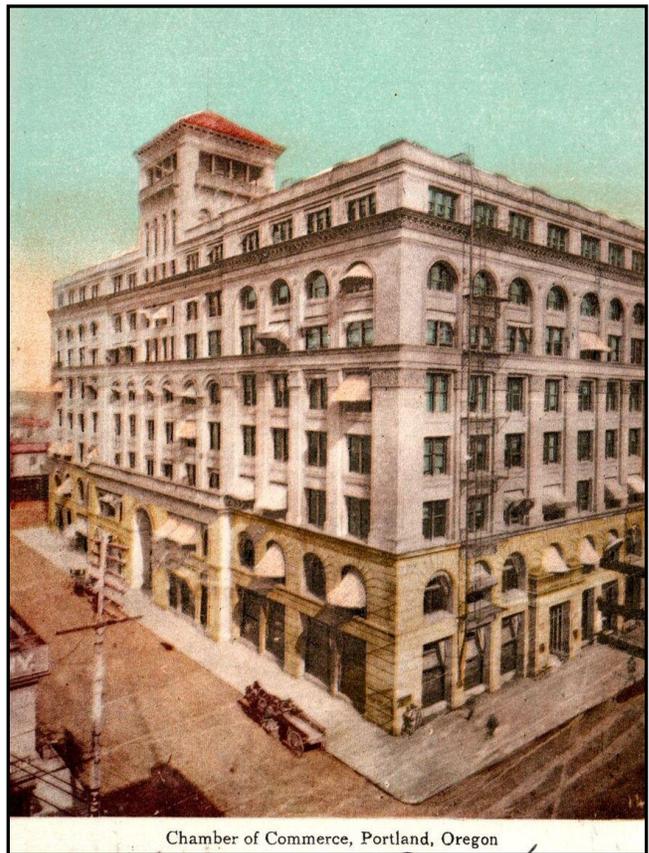
The Commercial Club will be ready for business Monday morning and will open at the Tavern on Sixth Street, between Alder and Washington. Many of the records and papers of the club were saved and it is believed that its work will not be seriously impeded. The club's loss was about \$40,000 with \$15,000 insurance.

There are three lessons that Portland should learn from yesterday's fire, according to Fire Chief Campbell. There is the absolute necessity of a water tower, the need of installation of a system of megaphones or speaking trumpets in the department, and the necessity of underground wiring.

Extravagant praises have been bestowed upon the firemen whose work yesterday prevented a panic and great property loss besides saving scores of lives. Numerous donations have been made to the department.

### **Policemen Keep Back Crowds**

Under the direction of Inspector Bruin and Captain Moore, dozens of Policemen performed effective



Chamber of Commerce, Portland, Oregon

duty in preventing accidents to the dense crowds which lined the streets for blocks. Lines of ropes were quickly drawn around the blocks surrounding the danger limits and cordons of patrolmen were stationed along the lines.

Hysterical women who had friends or relatives in the building, and men maddened by the sight of those in peril on the coping, struggled vainly against the ropes. The crowds were in great danger when firemen began to cut the network of electric wires which surrounded the building and when large pieces of stone began to fall from the upper stories. Individual acts of heroism



were numerous on the part of firemen and policemen. In raising the ladder to rescue those imprisoned on the coping of the eighth floor, the firemen encountered great difficulty in the mass of wires on a pole on the Fourth Street end of the building.

At the risk of his own life, Fireman Brick Fisher of Hose Company #2 scaled the pole and cut the wires in order to make room for the ladders. When the obstructions had been removed, the ladders were quickly raised and the unfortunates rescued. Fred Wagner, a cousin of Constable Lou Wagner, was formerly connected with the fire company and was one of the first to reach the scene yesterday. He performed excellent service in aiding persons to reach places of safety.

### **Captain Moore In Charge**

The greatest trouble in keeping back the crowds was experienced by the Police on Fourth Street. Captain Moore was in charge there and had in his command, Captain Slover, Sergeant Cole, and Patrolmen Price, Circle, Wilson, Burke, Nelson, O'Reilly, Anderson, Parker, Peterson, Hart, Goltz, Hill, Keller, Inskip, Courtney, and others.

Patrolman Price had charge of the life net with which Dave Cappa, chef at the Commercial Club, was saved after his perilous leap from an eighth story window. Chief Campbell declares that the leap was one of the most remarkable feats ever performed (learn more about the life net rescue at the end of the newspaper article).

Cappa weighs 220 pounds. He jumped from the eighth story to the roof of a one story printing establishment adjoining the Chamber of Commerce Building on the north. He was uninjured, but was removed to Good Samaritan Hospital where he is recovering from the shock.

He remained in the window until forced to jump by the heat and smoke. While he was in the window looking vainly for a way of escape, the multitude yelled frantic warnings and advice. Patrolman Price, who, with the aid of Patrolman Hart, three firemen, and a number of citizens, was preparing the life net on the roof below, tried vainly to keep the crowds quiet that he might give Cappa instructions before he leaped. He was forced to eject the number of advice-givers from the roof. Finally the crowd became subdued and Price told Cappa to wait until the net was prepared and not to jump until told to do so. Cappa replied from above that he would wait.

### **Cappa Jumps To Safety (see end of story for what followed this daring jump)**

Then he folded his hands and lifted his face toward the sky. Those below saw him in an attitude of supplication and heard him utter a brief prayer. He retained the attitude for a few minutes, and then shouted that he was ready. He climbed quickly out of the window and hung by his hands for a moment.

"Jump" they cried below after the net was directly beneath him in the grasp of a dozen strong men. He fell straight for a short distance, then his body straightened out until it was almost in a horizontal position when it struck the net. The canvas was torn but Cappa was uninjured. He rose quickly and seized the Policeman's hand, muttering unintelligible words of thanks.

Clarence W. Beckner, who runs one of the elevators in the building, was another who made a hero of himself in rescuing people from the threatened building. After the elevators had been shut down and abandoned, he boarded one of the cars and started up. He succeeded in carrying down five carloads of persons before he was finally compelled to abandon the machine.

Fred Swensson, Secretary of the Portland Real Estate Exchange, and prominently identified with the real estate business of the city, converted himself into an elevator boy and did heroic service in running the cages and rescuing occupants of the building.

### **Stenographer Robbed Of Purse**

Miss Armstrong, a stenographer in room 716, reported to the Police this morning that during the excitement of the fire her office was broken into and a purse containing \$2.50 was taken.

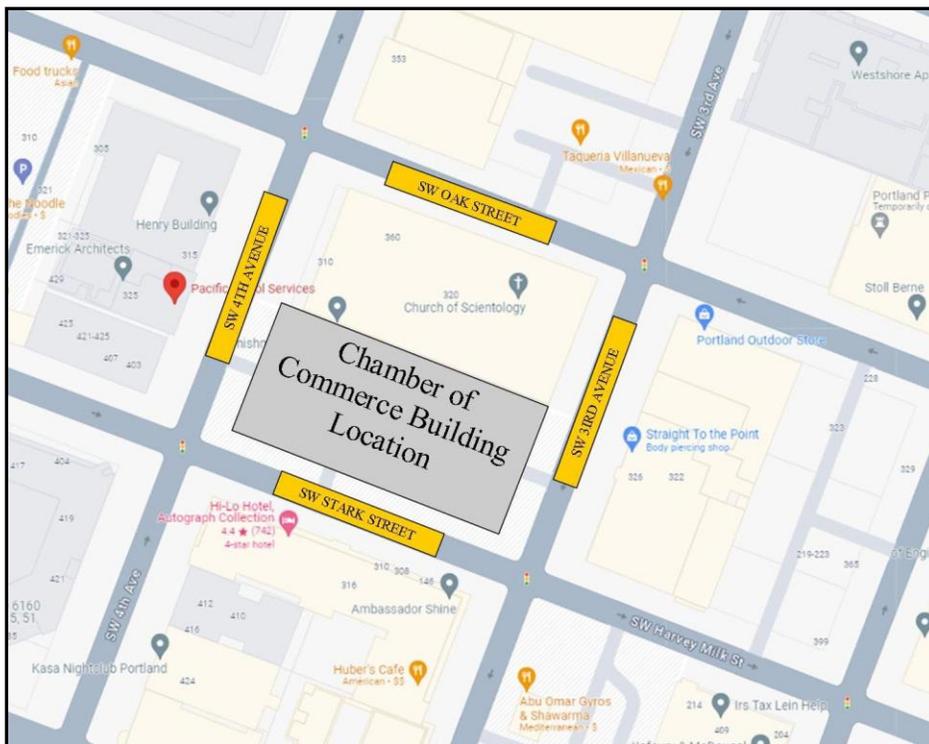
The flames performed a peculiar feat in the office of Judge Martin L. Pipes on the sixth floor. The flames swept down the light court and into his office, destroying a bundle of unbound reports and one volume of a long row of law books on the shelves. The office of Long & Sweek was also damaged.

With the exception of the one fatality, there were no accidents or injuries of consequence. Cappa, whose perilous leap was the sensation of the fire, escaped without injury, as did Tom Richardson and those who were on the coping of the eighth floor. Slight burns and bruises were sustained by ex-Councilman Matt Foeller, Dr. David Walker, Carl Liebe, and others. Among those who escaped from

the Commercial Club, besides the employees and attaches, were Albert Feldenheimer, George W. Hazen, CF Cook, Sam Lockhart, WB Scott, Ed Lyons, BD Sigler, Joe Roe, Charles Smith, T LaBranch, Tony Binayba, Whitney L. Boise, EK Wheeler, CA McCarger, EG Jones, JH Fogerty, and others.

It was largely due to the prompt and efficient service of the *Fireboat George Williams* that the flames were confined to the upper two floors and that they were as quickly subdued. The Fireboat lay at the foot of Stark Street and played a stream of water full upon the burning building by means of a long line of hose.

The stream was directed partly upon the Sherlock Building, protecting it from the ravenous flames, and partly upon the east end of the Chamber of Commerce Building.



On the Fourth Street side, where the spectacular features took place, the heat was intense. Firemen, at work in mid-air, were forced to resort to various means to reach the top stories. After reaching the seventh floor by climbing the fire escapes, a group of firemen found the iron railings and ladders leading to the eighth floor so hot that progress was barred. Hitching a nozzle to a window on the seventh floor, they directed a stream of water upon the

fire escape above them and kept it there until the iron ladders were cooled sufficiently to permit their climbing them.

It was scarcely two weeks ago that Robert L. Stevens, Chairman of the House Committee of the Commercial Club, requested Fire Marshal Roberts and Fire Chief Campbell to inspect the Club's apartments for the purpose of recommending additional means of fire protection.

In spectacular and sensational features, the fire yesterday has never been equaled in Portland, according to Chief Campbell. There have been many fires, he says, in which property losses were greater and which were much more difficult to fight, but there has been none in which human lives have been so greatly imperiled and at the same time such a heavy property loss threatened.

"The Dekum fire was a much harder one to fight" said the Chief, "but for the lives that were in danger yesterday, we would have had the fire under control much sooner than we did. There were numbers of people to be rescued and they were in dangerous positions causing us to lose time at the fire."

"The one lesson that Portland ought to learn from this fire is the absolute necessity of a fire tower. If we had had a tower yesterday, the work of fighting the flames would have been much easier, and we would have had them under control much sooner. We were also somewhat handicapped by rotten hose, which burst in several places. The Council has appropriated the money for new hose, but the tower has not been provided for. In my estimation that is the greatest need of the city at this time."

### **Cat Is Rescued - Tabby Crawls Out Onto Ledge And Seeks Shelter in Small Box**

Tabby, the gray cat that lived at the Commercial Club, had a thrilling experience at the fire yesterday. When the rooms were enveloped in flames and smoke, Tabby scurried wildly about the place, mewing loudly.

But her friends, too, were trying to escape and had no time to devote to her. Like others who narrowly escaped destruction, the cat was finally driven to the west end of the building and climbed into a window on the Fourth Street side.

She glanced apprehensively about her, wondering what the dense crowds of people down on the street meant by their tumultuous roar and frenzied gesticulation.

Finally, the flames drove her out upon the coping. Peering cautiously over the edge, she worked her way slowly along the abutting stone until she was finally observed by the crowd. A murmur of pity went up from a thousand throats. Then the cat disappeared and the crowd thought she had been lost.

After the flames had been subdued, Pipeman Fisher of Hose Company #2 was climbing along the coping on the eighth floor when his attention was attracted to a small box in the window. From the box came a long series of pitiful "meows" and when he stooped down to look inside, a large gray cat sprang upon his breast and clung to him frantically.

Tabby had taken refuge in the box and escaped uninjured. The Fireman was unable to loosen her claws from his coat until he had carried her to the ground. The rescue of the cat was greeted with loud cheers by the people.

### **How Hallock Died - Lost His Head And Jumped When He Might Have Escaped**

Homer H. Hallock lost his life in the fire yesterday because he became excited and jumped when if he had followed three friends, he could easily have escaped without a scratch. Mr. Hallock, Whitney L. Boise, Ed Lyons, and WC McBride were in the card room of the Club when the fire started. The others go out by the fire escape into the court, but Mr. Hallock lingered and when he thought the flames were upon him, leaped out of the window.

"We were all sitting about a table playing and watching an interesting game of solo," said Mr. McBride, "when we heard someone outside call out: 'Turn in the fire alarm.' We supposed there was a

fire somewhere in the neighborhood, but never dreamed that it was in the Chamber of Commerce Building. Immediately afterward someone else cried out: 'Call the fire department.' There was a commotion outside and Hallock remarked: 'Go out and see what is the matter.'

"I walked out of the room to the office and discovered the hall, full of smoke. As I reached the office, flames burst through the porieres across the hall to the dining room and in an instant, the whole place seemed to be filled with fire. The elevator was just descending and I ran for the shaft, expecting the other one to come up. I pushed the button two or three times but got no response. The heat was so intense that I could not stand it and, glancing to my right, saw the fire escape just out of an open window. I jumped through the window to the escape and started down. Looking back, I saw Boise, Lyons, and some gray-haired man following me. I supposed Hallock was with them. Climbing down to the seventh floor I looked through the windows and, seeing no fire there, combed into the hall, ran to the stairway, and went down. There were no flames below the eighth floor at all at that time and as I ran along the halls from stairway to stairway, I saw stenographers sitting in offices writing, totally oblivious to the fact that a fire was in progress."

After he got out of the building Mr. McBride met Boise and Lyons. The former was complaining about having had to run out and leave his hat. He missed Hallock but supposed the latter had disappeared in the crowd.

Instead of following his friends out of the room when they went out, Mr. Hallock sat at the table. When he got out and found himself surrounded by flames, he appeared to lose control of himself entirely. Carl Liebe found him rushing about in search of a fire escape. They were looking into the court, figuring how to reach the escape when a burst of flames shot past them. Mr. Hallock seemed to lose control of himself completely and, although Mr. Liebe tried to restrain him, he leaped through the window. Mr. Liebe worked his way through the smoke to the fire escape, descended to the seventh floor, and escaped without a scratch.

EJ Howard, a Director in the United Railways Company, is probably one of the few persons of the hundreds in the building when the fire started who saw the manner in which Hallock met his death. Mr. Howard was in the office of the United Railways Company on the fourth floor at the time.

"I was in my office," said Mr. Howard, "and when I heard the noise and commotion I looked out the window. Our office has a window opening upon the light court in the center of the building. I looked up to see where the fire was, and as I glanced upward I saw a man climb hurriedly out of a window. I thought it was on the sixth floor, but may have been mistaken about that."

"I saw the man, whom I afterward learned was Mr. Hallock, rush to the window and seize a small electric wire, with the evident determination of climbing down it. I called to him: 'Hey there, you'll kill yourself. Take your time for there's no need to be in such a rush.' He paid no attention to me, but seized the wire and swung out."

"The wire broke almost instantly and he fell upon the copper-bound glass roof of the court. He fell upon his feet and staggered backward, his body bending almost double, indicating that his back was broken. I, with others, rushed down immediately to the place where he fell."

## **Miss LeVern's Escape - Two Men Helped Her Down and Another Carried Out Crippled Uncle**

Maud M. LeVern of 1489 Ash Street, Mount Tabor, was the last woman to go up to the Commercial Club in one of the elevators. She was the last woman to leave the club rooms, owing her escape to two men, Mr. Riggs and a stranger. While they were assisting her down a fire escape on the Third Street side of the building another man was carrying her uncle, James E. Campbell of Tecumseh, Nebraska, down the same fire escaped on his back. Mr. Campbell is a cripple, and had not this unknown man picked him up and carried him down the escape, he would have perished. Miss LeVern gave the following thrilling account of her escape from the building.

"My uncle, Mr. Campbell, and myself went up to the Commercial Club rooms to see a man who was in the cafe. While were in the hall near the Secretary's desk talking with WR Wilds of the Club, a man whom I do not know, opened one of the doors leading into one of the parlors or reception room. When he opened the door he was followed by a sheet of flame. I sprang back in horror and grabbed at my uncle. Before I had time to make a second move, the man yelled at us: 'Run for your lives.'"

"In an instant everything was excitement and confusion. Men rushed back and forth trying to save things in rooms, or to ascertain just how serious the fire was."

"A man named Riggs caught me by one hand and another man took me by the other saying: 'Come on with us.'"

"With one of the men pulling m by my arm and the other urging me forward as he followed, we ran north down the short hall to the cafe, went through the pool room and bowling alleys to the fire escape on the Third Street side. The men hustled me out onto the fire escape and assisted me to climb down to about the fourth floor. There we entered the building and made descent to the street by the winding stairways."

"In the meantime, Thomas H. Thorn was saving the life of my uncle. When we were told to flee, Mr. Thorn took Mr. Campbell up in his arms and ran for a fire escape. So quickly did he act that my uncle lost his crutches. I guess they were burned with everything else in the Club rooms."

"In order that he might use his arms while making the descent of the fire escape, Mr. Thorn placed my uncle upon his back and he placed his arms around Mr. Thorn's neck. In that position, the two men rushed through the burning rooms to the fire escape, and slowly climbed down to safety."

"I never saw fire travel so rapidly in my life. When that man opened the door and told us to run for our lives, the flames were right behind him. They seemed to envelop him as he passed through the door, sticking far out in front of him into the hallway where we were standing talking."

"We ran just as fast as we could from the Secretary's desk to the Third Street fire escape, but the flames traveled just as fast as we did. At no time were they less than 10 feet behind us. Once or twice, I thought they would catch up with us, but my two rescuers kept urging me on, and I ran for my life. I never ran so fast before."

"I do not know who the man was that saved my uncle, or who the other man was that assisted Mr. Riggs in saving me, but I want *The Journal* to thank them through its columns for me, I would like to meet them, if they will make themselves known, that I may thank them in person."

### **Richardson's Escape - Might Have Jumped To Sherlock Building, But Ran Wrong Way**

In the excitement, Tom Richardson, who was rescued from a perilous position on top of the burning building by Fireman Perkins, was forced by the flames to run away from a point of safety into a place of danger. When he first reached the roof, he ran towards the northeast corner, where there was little fire and where he had a drop of less than 20 feet to reach the top of the Sherlock Building. Steward Clark and a number of men who escaped by dropping to this building from the buffet window saw him and called to him to come to the corner and jump.

"Mr. Richardson saw me," said Mr. Clark, "and started for the corner. Just as he did so a burst of flame and smoke swept across between him and the edge of the building. When the smoke lifted I saw Mr. Richardson running towards the west side. We could see he was going into danger, but he was being driven there."

"I was excited, but I knew what I was doing," said Richardson. "I was afraid the roof towards the Sherlock Building was about to collapse and that is why I ran to the west side. The heat there was intense and as I passed the ventilator I could see flames and smoke boiling up under it. Ordinarily, I could no more walk to the edge of that building and look over without falling than I could fly. I was afraid the ventilator would burst and let the smoke through. I knew if this happened I would be overcome. That is why I climbed over the wall. My one thought was to be in a position where I could be protected from the flame and smoke if they burst through."

"As I hung there I thought about an insurance policy I had in the safe in my office. I wondered what effect it would have on the payment of the policy should I jump. Then I wondered if my papers would be saved, and if they were not, if my wife knew enough about them to be able to protect her interests in what they represented. I finally concluded that she did. I was about half dazed. When the fireman reached me, he repeatedly assured me I was safe and admonished me to hold tight."

### **Stone Explodes - Showers of Splintered Rock Rain Down Upon Pavement**

The heat was so intense near the southwest corner of the building that the stone of the wall exploded as though it were loaded with powder. Showers of splintered fragments were hurled out across the street and rained down upon the pavement. Several persons who attempted to walk along the Fourth Street side of the building narrowly escaped being struck.

A serious collision between two of the fire department trucks was narrowly averted when the department first arrived on the scene. One was running down Washington Street to Fourth Street and another was coming down Fourth. Neither driver could see the other and the two heavy wagons carrying the first hose that was laid were rushing together at terrific speed when a passerby, seeing the impending disaster, jumped in front of the apparatus on Fourth Street and stopped the horses just as the heads of the two teams came almost together.

### **Cake Of Ice Stood Fire - Found In Western Part Of Building, Covered With Cinders, Still Intact**

Perhaps the most remarkable incident of the fire is one vouched for by Judge Alex Sweek and three other persons. A cake of ice weighing two or three pounds was discovered in the midst of heaps of cinders an hour after the fire was extinguished.

As soon as occupants were permitted to enter the structure, Judge Sweek, his stenographer, the stenographer of Judge Martin L. Pipes, and a Journal reporter climbed the stairway to the eighth floor. About 40 feet from the western end of the building, Judge Sweek's foot struck a small pile of cinders, the remnant of a piece of brass furniture, and a small bottle, half melted by the heat. The shock threw what appeared to be a large block of glass partly into view. Judge Sweek stooped and picked it up, brushing away the cinders at the same time. Then he cried out in astonishment: "Why, it's a chunk of ice."

How the ice got there or how it passed through the fire has not been determined. One theory is that it was a large piece and melted down. It is hard to account for a large piece of ice being in that part of the structure, as all the ice was kept at the other end of the building. The ice could not have been dropped after the fire, as it was covered with cinders and debris.

### **Dinner Called Off - Commercial Club's Annual Feast Will Not Be Held Tonight**

Because of the fire yesterday, the Board of Governors of the Commercial Club last night met and decided to cancel the annual dinner which was to have been held tonight.

Elaborate preparations for the feast had been made and some of the most distinguished men of the state and country had been sent invitation to be present. President Roosevelt was one of those who were specially invited to attend the banquet.

Last night the Board of Governors got together and decided immediately not to hold any banquet. Secretary Tom Richardson was instructed to send notices to all invited that the dinner had been called off.

### **Money Testimonials - FD Tull Sends Fifty Dollars For Fire and Police Fund**

Chief Campbell has been showered with testimonials for the effective work of the fire department in saving lives and property in the conflagration in the Chamber of Commerce Building yesterday. Many of these testimonials are in the form of money contributions to the fire and police relief fund.

This morning he received a letter accompanied by a check for \$50 from FD Tull of the Tull & Gibbs Furniture Company, which was as follows: "We had you herewith, our check for \$50 in behalf of the firemen's relief fund. We do this as an expression of our appreciation for the manner in which the fire department so valiantly rescued the lives of men who were cut off from escape in the Chamber of Commerce fire. Men who aided this rescue are, in our opinion, entitled to the highest praise."

A well dressed man approached the Chief this morning. "Are you the Fire Chief?" he asked. "I am, sir," was the reply. "Here's \$5 for the relief fund," said the stranger. "I've seen many bad fires, and

some thrilling rescues, but you fellows are it. Just say it's from Bill, that's all." The man turned and hastened away.

The Chief and the members of the fire department desire to extend their thanks to the people who have so generously contributed to the relief fund.

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The jump into the life net by Dave W. Cappa was not just spectacular, it was unusual. Life nets had been carried on Portland Fire apparatus for decades. No one knows exactly when it began but it ended in the early 1980s. Any Portland Firefighter hired before 1985 very likely has a story to share about their experience jumping into a life net early in their training.

The devices are huge, cumbersome, and difficult to deploy, requiring many firefighters. It is extremely difficult for a panicked person to jump properly and not hurt themselves, much less the firefighters holding the life net. Additionally, modern-day fire codes and fire protection features built into buildings allow safe means of escape, even under fire conditions.

Life nets can still be seen in action by the Portland Fire Ladder Drill Team, who perform with a ladder and life net during the Rose Festival celebrations each June. But don't try that at home!



Life nets have always been visually interesting pieces of firefighting equipment. Too large to hide, they sometimes were carried in the open on ladder trucks. The "Red Book" training manual described the Life Net this way:

The life net is a device used for rescuing persons from upper floors or roofs when all other means are impossible. It should be used only in extreme emergencies. The net consists of a ring made of metal piping about ten feet in diameter. The landing mat consists of a heavy canvas or nylon webbing and is usually covered by a quilted pad. The landing mat is attached to the ring by approximately thirty coil springs. The springs are attached to the mat by leather straps riveted to the mat and to the frame by steel rods running through the center of the springs. When in operation, the net is held open by sleeves that lock the hinged joint. It is folded to a quarter or half circle when carried on the apparatus.



Other sources discuss the deployment of a life net suggesting they be opened well away from the building so the potential jumper did not leap before the life net was ready to use. It was said it should be carried on edge to avoid appearing as a target and lowered flat when all firefighters holding it were ready to put it to use.

It was suggested that 10-12 firefighters hold the life net. They should be spread equally around the Life Net, grasping it with palms up, holding the ring about shoulder height. Knees must be well back

from the ring itself as the impact can cause the ring to drop a couple feet upon impact.

Once in place, the catch can be made. On impact, all firefighters would absorb the force of the jumper by allowing the ring to drop down from shoulder level to waist level. This is where an errant leg under the ring could easily be broken if hit by the ring.

If one can envision all that is necessary to safely and effectively deploy such a device, all while trying to provide instruction to someone so desperate for their life that they would consider jumping from a fourth or fifth floor of a building, it is easy to see how the chance of catching the jumper would be low at best. A slight miscalculation might find the jumper landing on several firefighters or even into the middle of the street.

An online article from FirefighterNation.com described life nets this way:

The good thing, judging from old press accounts, was that a lot of times life nets worked. The bad thing was that seemingly just about as often, they didn't—deaths and injuries were common.

The practical limit was believed to be six stories; New York City firefighters in 1900 routinely jumped into a net from that height during their training. Surviving a leap from a taller building wasn't out of the question. In a 1930 Chicago fire, three people



jumped eight stories into a net: Two suffered minor injuries, and one bounced out and fractured her skull. One daredevil L.A. firefighter tested a life net from ten stories and landed without a scratch.

But that was rare. In the infamous Triangle Shirtwaist garment factory fire of 1911, flames raced through the top three floors of a ten-story building in lower Manhattan. Scores of panicked workers, mostly young women, leaped from the windows. Some plummeted to the sidewalk even before firefighters arrived and set up their nets. Two women who had jumped together ripped through one net, followed close after by a third. Another woman landed in a net but died of internal injuries later. Deliverymen stretched out a tarp hoping to save some of the leapers; the first hurtling body ripped it from their grasp. With corpses literally piling up at the foot of the building, nets were soon abandoned as futile. In all, 146 people died.

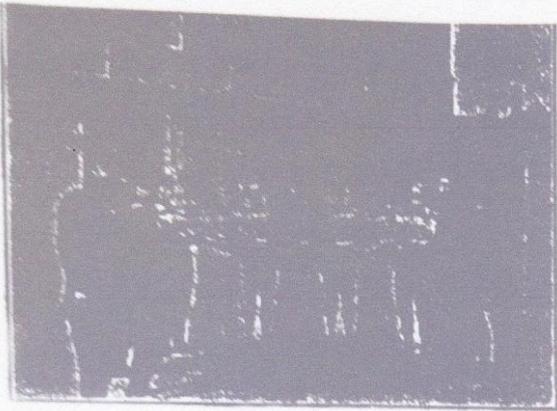
Jumping from lower heights wasn't much safer. Leapers sometimes struck something on the way down, landed on a fireman or missed entirely. Things could go wrong even if you were on target. In 1910, four women made the mistake of clinging to one another as they jumped from a burning four-story factory in Newark, New Jersey. They tore through the net and were killed.

Back to the Chamber of Commerce building Fire and the jump by Dave Cappa, it was one of the few, or perhaps the only, successful jump known to Portland Fire. The following pages share two letters related to the life net rescue.

In an April 16, 1906 letter from TF Browder & Company, the maker of "Browder Life Saving Nets," they acknowledge Cappa's jump and ask for him to endorse their life nets in their sales literature. Apparently Cappa agreed.

The second letter, dated July 24, 1906, thanks Cappa for his letter and asks him to sign the photo and return it so it can be included on the TF Browder & Company circulars. In exchange, They offer a \$5 order to purchase cigars.

So ends the story of the Chamber of Commerce Building fire.



AFTER A FIVE STORY JUMP.

Mr. D. L. Cappu,

Portland, Oregon.

Dear Sir:

I have a clipping from one of your papers, The Portland Oregonian, which contains your picture and a history of your daring leap for the life net. We regret very much that you were injured in any way at all, but are truly glad that your life was saved. We would like to get a statement from you, as good as you feel that you can give us, stating that you owe your life to the Browder Machine; and describing your experience about as it is in the paper, but if you feel like leaving out about the fractured ribs all right. Put it just to suit yourself and it would be perfectly satisfactory to us. We also want to get the cut from which your picture was made and insert your picture above your statement and use them in our pamphlets and circulars if you have no objections.

Trusting that you have fully recovered and hoping to hear from you at an early date, and, thanking you in advance we are

Very truly,

The Browder Co.

THE HINGERS AND SPRINGS TAKES THE HIT off the person jumping and the people holding the Escape. There is no rebound, the hangers counteracting the same. If these nets were used by hotels, factories, workshops, and fire departments, there would be no reason for the loss of human life by fire. The Escape is held shoulder high and at half arms length, keeping the elbow from touching the body. It is held by ten to twelve men. Made with hinges and automatic locks.



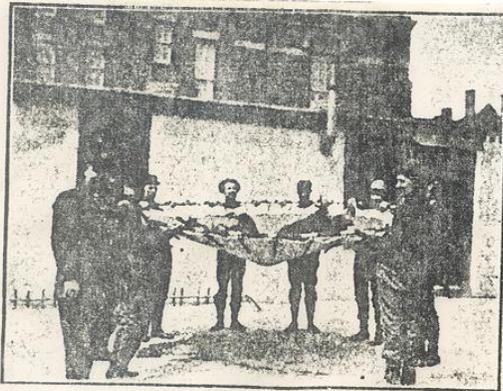
THE NET CLOSED.

WRITE FOR PRICES.

The
T. F. Browder & Co.
Manufacturers of The

Browder Life Saving Nets.

Greenfield, Ohio. 4/16/06.



AFTER A FIVE STORY JUMP.

Mr. D/L. Cappa,
Portland, Oregon:
Dear Sir:

We have the pleasure to acknowledge the receipt of your very good and kind letter; and thank you very much for the same. It gives me great pleasure to know that I have been the means of saving your life by my invention. I hope you will never be forced to make such a fearful leap again. It is very nice in you to praise the machine that saved your life, and by so doing you may help to save other lives, as we expect to put your recommendation you sign in our circulars with your picture above it. After send us your picture we will get a cut made of it and then send you some of the circulars with your picture on them. ~~We~~

We feel like setting up the cigars to a man who made such a fearful leap and gives the machine the praise you do. Inclosed please find express order for five dollars. Smoke a few on us, and send us your photo.

Now if you can conscientiously sign the recommendation we send you and return we shall thank you very much.

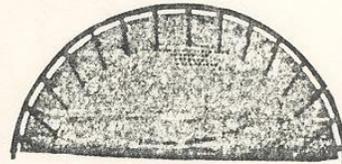
Write it off in your own hand writing and return it to us at once as we are in a hurry to get out our circulars. Hoping that you will attend to this, and thanking you in advance, we are,

yours very truly,

Browder & Cory

BROWDER & CORY,
SUCCESSORS TO

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