

AUTO WITH TEN PERSONS ROLLS DOWN MOUNTAIN

ONE PERSON IS DEAD AND ONE OR TWO MORE MAY DIE AS RESULT OF ACCIDENT WHICH APPALS ALL SOUTHERN PORTION OF THE STATE.

Driver Withdraws His Attention From Road for Only a Moment to Look at Defective Spring, but Wheel is Over Brink when He Turns Back to His Post.

One of the worst catastrophes that have occurred in southern Utah for a number of years befel Warren Cox and a car load of nine other people last Tuesday while they were ascending the dugway of the big black ridge above Bellevue. As a result of the accident one person is dead, one or two others are in an extremely critical condition and may die, and half a dozen others are suffering from injuries of varying severity.

When the ill-fated automobile left the state highway and rolled down the steep hill-side, over volcanic rocks and brush to the creek bed nearly 200 feet below, it contained the following persons, the extent of whose injuries we briefly describe:

Warren Cox of St. George, chauffeur; skull fractured, two ribs and arm broken, had contusions about face and head. Believed that he will recover.

Mrs. Sarah Casto of Salina, an elderly lady, dead.

Five-year-old Lavon Jensen, of Richfield, grand-daughter of the dead woman, leg broken and bad bruises on head and body.

Alfred Stucki of Santa Clara, back broken and badly smashed up. Will probably not survive.

Will Stucki, brother of Alfred, had bruises and contusions, but injuries not serious.

Kay Booth, son of Photographer J. J. Booth of St. George, badly smashed chest; condition critical, but odds now in favor of recovery.

Rev. C. S. Rice, wife and 8 months old baby, of this place: Mr. Rice sustained a broken nose and severe contusions and bruises about his head. Mrs. Rice suffered less severe injuries than her husband, while the baby escaped unharmed.

J. E. Taylor, state horticulturist, of Salt Lake City; internal injuries, but was able to assist in caring for those with more severe injuries.

How Accident Occurred.

Passengers on the ill-fated car give the following account of how the automobile came to leave the road and plunge down the steep and rocky side of the mountain. They were traveling at only a reasonable rate of speed. A defective spring had been giving the driver some concern, and he partially turned and inquired how the spring was holding up. At this point in the road there was only a narrow margin between the road and the precipice, of possibly two feet; unconsciously the chauffeur turned the steering wheel slightly, and Mr. Taylor, who was seated in the center of the seven-passenger car, called to Mr. Cox to look out. He turned quickly and gave a turn to the wheel, but all too late. In less than a second the car with its contents was rolling down the rugged mountain side. At each revolution some of the passengers fell out. Less damage might have been done but for the top, which did not break loose at the first revolution but caught some of the passengers and drew them under the rolling machine again and again. Stucki, the man with the broken back, rolled clear to the bed of the creek, but some little distance from where the car fell, up-side-down, also at the bottom of the steep incline.

News Reaches Cedar City.

The accident happened at just about 10 o'clock in the morning, and at 11 o'clock Dr. Leonard received a telephone message from Bellevue, bidding him hasten to the scene of the accident. The Record scribe scented an important news item, and bespoke passage in the doctor's car. In ten minutes we were off and in one hour had covered the 25 or 26 miles to where the accident occurred. Dr. Woodbury of St. George and Dr. Wilkinson of Hurricane were also called to give assistance, and each made a

quick run by automobile to the scene. Was a Gruesome Sight.

When we arrived at the scene of the accident we found Mr. Taylor and Mr. Rice and William Stucki walking about and doing what they could for those who were injured worse than themselves. One car which came up the road half an hour after the accident, being met by Rev. Rice who was trying to make his way staggering to Bellevue, had returned to that place taking Mr. Cox, Booth, Mrs. Rice and her babe. The others were still near where the car had left them, but had received such assistance as the survivors could give. Our camera preserved the scene as we found it at that time. The dead woman was nearest the top of the hill, the little girl with a broken leg near half way down, where most of the luggage was also scattered, and Stucki lying at the bottom. It required six of us to carry him up to the road, with frequent rests, three of the least injured in the wreck assisting. Taylor and Rice showed wonderful grit and nerve, taking their places with the new recruits and doing their full share of the work, though both had injuries severe enough to cause them to faint more than once before the arrival of assistance. George H. Ogden came with the first car upon the scene and also rendered valuable aid to the injured.

Soon other cars came from both directions and the principal concern was to prevent a blockade and further damage or injury. The dead and wounded were all placed on automobiles and hurried to where they could receive more thorough examination and attention. The corpse and the little grand-daughter were bro't to this place, and Rev. Rice and family followed a little later in the evening.

A Touching Incident.

One of the most pathetic incidents in the whole lamentable affair was the leaving of the little Jensen girl, badly injured and in the hands of strangers; asking for her grandmother, whom we feared to tell her was dead. A mere child among strangers, crushed and mangled, and with her only friend and protector in this locality a corpse.

The little girl was taken to Dr. Leonard's private hospital, where she received kind and careful attention. Her parents were communicated with as soon as possible, and her father, Louis Jensen of Richfield, arrived here yesterday, and the little girl is doing as well as could be expected, or hoped for.

