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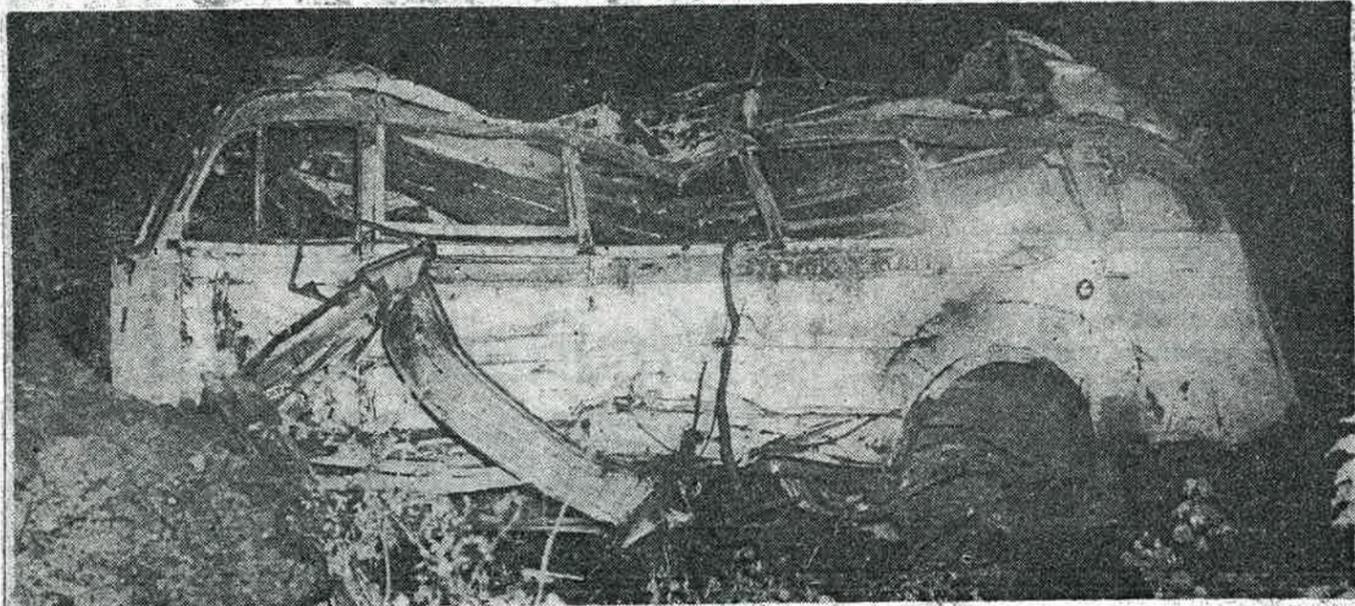
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SUDDEN DEATH RIDES SLIPPERY MOUNTAIN HIGHWAY



CHARRED, CRUMPLED wreckage of the charter bus carrying the Spokane baseball team lies at the bottom of a 500-foot cliff, following the crash that killed eight of its 16 riders when it crashed thru a guard rail in Snoqualmie pass and caught fire.—Star-Acme photo.

Spokane Ball Players in Fatal Wreck

No evidence of mechanical failure has been discovered by investigators seeking the cause of the disastrous bus accident in which eight Spokane baseball players were killed last night. A preliminary examination of the vehicle's steering apparatus uncovered no defects, an official of the Washington Motor Coach company said this afternoon.

BY JACK PYLE
Death toll in the tragic Snoqualmie pass bus crash rose to eight at 12:40 o'clock this afternoon with the passing of George Lyden, 22-year-old pitcher, hauled last night from the wreckage with critical head injuries and serious burns.

Seven other members of the Spokane Western International league team, one critically injured, and the driver of the bus remained under hospital care today, after their chartered bus crashed thru a cable-type guard rail and tumbled 350 feet down a rocky embankment, then burst into flames, three miles west of the Snoqualmie summit at 7:30 last night.

The special bus, carrying all but three members of the Spokane team, hurtled off the highway at the 3400-foot level of the mountain pass and ripped thru 100 feet of guard rail before careening down the steep, muddy bank and bursting into flames.

The bus crashed to a stop at the bottom of a ravine as the injured scrambled from windows and split sections. One of the players was hurled thru the roof as the bus started its fatal plunge.

Today state patrolmen who directed rescue operations thruout the night, still probed the burned wreckage, seeking the cause of the accident. Meanwhile, in Seattle, Coroner John P. Brill Jr., waited to question the bus driver, Glen Berg, in critical condition with serious burns at Virginia Mason hospital.

One version was that the bus, out of control, had been off the road for about 100 feet, knocking down the heavy wooden ties of the guard rail like bowling pins until it finally crashed, rolling over the side of the cliff.

Another was that the bus attempted to dodge an automobile that was coming toward it on the wrong side of the highway, skidded and crashed.

First on the scene was Nelson I. Allen, a truck driver from Prosser, Wash., who was driving east at the time of the accident.

"I saw the bus following a car coming toward me," Allen said. "Then, I happened to look left for a moment—and when I looked ahead again, I saw the tail end of the bus going over the bank."

"I stopped and ran to the place where the bus left the road and saw it burst into flames at the bottom of the cliff. Then I ran to my truck and got a line and tied it to one of the remaining posts of the guard rail and let

motorists stopped and helped bring the injured up the rocky slope. State patrolmen stationed at the summit hurried to the scene while extra detail of officers and coroner's deputies rushed from Seattle.

Rescue squads, led by state patrolmen, roped down the slippery incline to the flaming pyre with the aid of red emergency flares and spotlights which cast a garish light over the tragic scene.

The fire burned until daylight, when coroner's deputies and patrolmen began removing the bodies.

Hit-Run Death Driver Sought

Boy, 4, Is Fatally Injured by Machine

Police today sought a hit-run driver who struck down and fatally injured 4-year-old Kenneth Robert Romuneth in front of his home, 3724 W. Holden street at 7:10 o'clock last night.

Kenneth, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Romuneth, died upon arrival at West Seattle General hospital. The only description of the death machine was that it was a large two-toned colored automobile, dark blue and buff.

His death boosted the city's fatality mark to 43 for this year.

43 KILLED
In City Traffic Since January 1

DON'T KILL THE 44TH

two less than at this time a year ago. Seattle included, the King county total is 79, compared to 62 at the same time last year.

Neil W. Lane of 3716 W. Holden street, told Traffic Investigator Lyle K. Leedle that he heard a thud as he sat in his living room and when he looked up the car was speeding away and the youngster was lying in the street. Two of the tiny victim's playmates, Suzanne Langmead, 11, of 3811 W. Holden street, and Geraldine Fox, 10, of 3757 W. Austin street, were nearby. They said that they heard the impact but did not see the child struck. They saw the car drive away.

The body was taken to the West Home chapel, 4409 California avenue, for funeral service arrangements.

Son's Souvenir Rifle Kills Dad

Shot when a souvenir rifle held by his son accidentally discharged yesterday evening, Norman K. Bouck, 45, of 6008 McKinley place, died of his wounds today forenoon at Harborview, King county hospital.

Bouck, shot thru his hip, was taken to the hospital after the mishap occurred at his home at 6:55 o'clock yesterday evening. His son, James, 23, told Detective Lts. Leo P. Hemler and R. H. Stark that

father. The father and son had unwrapped two rifles which they had received from another son, Robert, a sailor. One gun was a Japanese rifle and the other a carbine. The father set the Japanese gun in a corner and prepared to sit down for dinner.

"I slipped a shell into the gun and tried to close the bolt, but I guess I did something wrong and the gun fired," James told detectives.

The youth called for an ambulance and summoned police.

Injured were:

Chris Hartie, 30, San Francisco, burns, critical.

Richard Powers, 26, Oakland, head and spine injuries, serious.

Chief Levi McCormack, 33, Spokane, head injury, serious.

Erwin Konopka, 26, Moscow, head injuries, serious.

Peter Barisoff, 20, Los Angeles, minor hurts.

Benjamin Geraghty, 31, Spokane, broken knee.

Glenn Berg, 24, Spokane, driver of the bus, severe burns on arms, body and legs. He was taken to Virginia Mason Hospital.

After an all-night drive from Spokane, Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Berg, parents of the driver, reached their son's bedside this forenoon. Berg was bruised and burned so severely that he was unable to see

is parents or hear their words of comfort.

A four-way investigation was launched this forenoon by federal, state, county and transportation officials.

The deaths raised King County's traffic toll to 79 this year, compared to 62 at this time last year.

The big bus sheared off heavy concrete guardrail posts strung with heavy cable for a distance of more than 100 feet before it rolled over the hill.

So steep was the slope that more than 30 state patrolmen, coroner's deputies and volunteers were unable to remove six of the dead until special lighting equipment was rushed from Olympia.

Two state patrolmen, O. C. Furseth and H. R. Ferguson, were injured by rolling rocks not far from the wreckage as they were aiding in transporting a body on a heavy "trolley" cable strung from the highway.

Both were trapped beneath boulders nearly ten minutes before other workers could free them. Both escaped serious injury.

Furseth said Darwin (Gus) Hall-bourg of Boston walked up the hill with assistance of other state patrolmen and hitch-hiked a ride to Ellensburg, where he was admitted to a hospital suffering from burns on his pitching hand and arms.

So violent was the pitching motion of the bus that one victim was hurled 120 feet through a dense hicket beyond where the bus stopped and burned, Brill said. He died instantly.

One body, found almost beneath the hood of the bus, was burned beyond recognition.

Notified late last night of the tragedy by Sam Collins, owner of the Spokane ball club, Roscoe (Torchy) Torrance, vice president of the Seattle Rainiers, drove to the scene and kept a night-long vigil until the bodies were removed.

Dawn was breaking and a cold rain was falling as the first body was hauled up the trolley way, guided by mud-smeared, weary state patrolmen.

The patrol said some 200 vehicles were delayed near the scene while the highway was held open for six emergency vehicles used to transport the injured. Even hearses were pressed into service.

Throughout the night patrolmen guided heavily laden trucks and trailers and gasoline transports at snail's pace through the maze of stand-by vehicles.

Burns Five Hours

Hundreds of curiosity seekers stood in the cold and rain to ask questions and then depart, shaking their heads. The bus fire burned about five hours, casting a flickering light on still forms strewn about on the ground.

Dead Identified

The dead, in addition to Lyden, were identified by Coroner John P. Brill, Jr., as:

Mel Cole, team manager.

Robert Kinnaman, former Washington State College pitcher, from Brooklyn, Pacific County.

Robert James, Tempe, Ariz.

Robert Paterson, San Francisco.

George C. Risk, 27, an infielder from Hillsboro, Or.

Frederick T. Martinez, an infielder from San Diego.

TIMES JUN 25 1946

SWERVING TO AVOID OTHER CAR IS FATAL

George Lyden, 22-year-old pitcher for the Spokane baseball team of the Western International League, died in Harborview County Hospital this afternoon, raising to eight the death toll in last night's crash of a chartered bus in Snoqualmie Pass.

An unidentified automobile driver was blamed by survivors for the crash, in which the bus driver and seven other baseball players were hurt.

Survivors said the bus driver swerved to avoid a collision with the automobile. The bus crashed through a guard rail about 7:30 o'clock, rolled 300 feet down a rocky embankment and burned. The fire did not burn out until after midnight.

The accident was 2.9 miles west of the Summit.

"I saw the headlights coming toward us on the wrong side as we curved downhill," Levi McCormack, 33-year-old Spokane outfielder and former Seattle Rainier player, said today at Harborview County Hospital.

"The road was slippery. Our driver applied his brakes. We swerved across the road into the guard rail. We went through. We went down. I've never heard such hell."

"I don't know why we didn't smash the other driver. It might have been better."

Ben Geraghty, 31, second baseman, corroborated McCormack's statement.

"I saw the lights coming," Geraghty said. "The car was on the wrong side. We either tried to miss it or skidded. I don't know. I went out a window too quickly to tell."

other 180 feet through a wooded area into the river.

Games Canceled

The Spokane players were en route to Bremerton to play a seven-game series with the Bremerton Bluejackets, with the first game scheduled for tonight.

Robert Abel, Tacoma, president of the league, announced all league games scheduled tonight have been canceled in homage to the victims.

The 3-and-0 Club of Seattle offered to gather a team of semi-professionals to play exhibition games for the Spokane club until a team can be organized. The Bremerton series has been canceled.

SAN DIEGO CALL SAVES LOHRKE

Three members of the Spokane Baseball Club escaped the tragedy which befell their team mates when a chartered bus went over an embankment on Snoqualmie Pass last night.

Jack Lohrke, third baseman, started from Spokane in the bus but was called off at Ellensburg by a telegram notifying him to report "at once" to the San Diego Coast League team. Lohrke returned to Spokane to take a plane south.

Two others players, Milt Cadinha and Joe Faria, accompanied by their wives, drove from Spokane to Bremerton in a private automobile.

Truck Driver Tells of Aid In Bus Crash

In a dramatic, eyewitness account, Nelson I. Allen of Prosser told today how a 21-passenger bus plunged 300 feet down a mountain-side in Snoqualmie Pass and burned last evening, killing seven men and injuring eight.

Allen, a truck driver, was first on the scene and reached the bus in time to drag two injured men from beside the burning vehicle and beat out flames on the clothing of a third.

Allen reached the bus by lowering himself down the boulder-strewn mountainside on a rope he fastened to a guard rail. He was followed closely by Glenn Spencer of Yakima and Alexander Kuzmoski, 910 17th Ave. N., who also witnessed the tragedy.

Too Hot for Rescue

"I rigged up a line to get down the hill as quickly as I could," Allen said. "Two men were lying right beside it and I dragged them away. There were other people in the bus and I could hear them screaming but I couldn't get close enough to get them out. It was too hot."

"Some of them crawled out and one fellow was on fire, so I beat out the flames."

Spencer said when he reached the scene two of the men were lying some 25 feet from the bus. A third was sitting on a rock moaning: "My buddy! He's in there!"

Clothing Afire

Clothes on four other victims was burning, Spencer said, and he helped Allen beat out the flames and attempted to give first aid.

"There was another fellow there whose back seemed to be broken," Spencer added. He kept moaning, "Don't touch my back! Don't move me!" and another fellow was sitting on a rock sort of sobbing and crying for someone to help the others."

P. L. JUN 25 1946

BABY FOUND DEAD IN CAR

Lying face down in his bassinets in the back seat of his parents' automobile, a two-month-old baby, Harold Curtis Stevens, was found dead yesterday.

The boy's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Harold Lee Stevens, who live in an auto court at 9801 Aurora Ave., told deputy sheriffs the infant had been ill and they had placed him in the basket about two hours before he was found.

Sheriff's Capt. Bruce Temple and Deputy E. H. (Dick) Barden worked over the baby with an inhalator for about an hour. Their efforts proved futile.

Deputies of Coroner John P. Brill Jr. reported death probably was caused by an enlarged thymus gland rather than by suffocation.

WRECKAGE OF DEATH BUS AMONG TREES, FERNS



STAR JUN 25 1946

MOUNTAIN TRAGEDY CLAIMS HUGE TOLL OF VICTIMS



SLIPPING on dripping rocks in a pouring rain, state patrolmen and sheriff's deputies laboriously haul one of the unidentified victims of the bus tragedy up the steep slopes of Snoqualmie pass, using a cable to keep the body off the rocks.—Star-Acme photo.



ALL-NIGHT VIGIL was spent at Harborview hospital by Roscoe (Torchy) Torrance of the executive staff of the Seattle Rainiers, who checked the rising death toll of members of the Spokane Western International league ball club, victims of a bus disaster on Snoqualmie pass. Torrance here is shown checking over a roster of the team with Ole Anderson, ambulance driver, who brought several of the victims to the hospital.

Truck Driver, First at Scene Of Bush Crash, Tells Grim Story

BY NELSON I. ALLEN
As Told to the United Press
SNOQUALMIE PASS — (UP)—I'm a truck driver from Prosser, Wash. I was driving my truck east about 7:30 o'clock last night three miles below the summit when I saw the bus coming.

There was a drizzle of rain and I glanced at the rear-view mirror after meeting the bus. When I looked back, I saw the rear end of the bus going over the cliff. I stopped quick. I ran to the place where I saw it leave the road and watched it still rolling down the hill. It was on fire. It came to a stop at the bottom of the ravine with a sickening crash.

I ran back to my truck and got a rope and tied a line to a post and lowered myself down the bank as fast as I could. I was jumpy and skinned my hands getting down there.

When I got to the bottom, I saw two bodies sprawled near the wreck. They were on fire, but I got them away and put the flames out. They were both dead. By that time, some other fel-

lows came down the hill on my rope.

They yelled "What happened?" but I was so excited I didn't answer.

It was sure terrible. Some of the guys from the bus had crawled out or were thrown out and one of them was laying there moaning.

Other people were screaming inside the bus, but I was unable to reach them because of the fire. I helped as many as possible until assistance came.

I'll never forget trying to save those two guys but found I was too late.

Here's List of Crash Victims

The dead in the Snoqualmie bus accident were identified today by Coroner John P. Brill Jr., as follows:

- Victor Pecetti, 19, first baseman, San Francisco, unmarried.
- George Risk, 23, shortstop, Hillsboro, Ore., married.
- Fred Martinez, 23, right fielder, San Diego.
- Mel Cole, 25, catcher-manager, Sacramento, married.
- Bob Patterson, 23, outfielder,

Brooklyn, Wash.

Bob James, 25, outfielder, Tempe, Ariz.

George Lyden, 22, pitcher, Tensed, Ida.

The injured and condition, according to Harborview, King county hospital officials:

Chris Hartje, 30, catcher, San Francisco, married. Critical with first and second degree burns.

Glen Berg, 24, Spokane, driver of the ill-fated bus, critical with serious burns in Virginia Mason hospital.

Irv Konopka, 26, catcher, Moscow, Ida., unsatisfactory with head injuries.

Levi McCormack, 33, left fielder, Lapwai, Ida., unmarried. Unsatisfactory with head injuries.

Benjamin Geraghty, 31, second baseman, Livingston, N. J., satisfactory with head cuts.

Peter Barisoff, 20, pitcher, Spokane, satisfactory with minor injuries.

Richard Powers, 26, pitcher, Spokane, unsatisfactory with head injuries.

Gus Hallbourg, pitcher, San Francisco, married, minor injuries.

3 Players Not On Death Trip

Missing Pitcher Is Found in Ellensburg

Only three members of the ill-fated Spokane squad were not on the bus when it crashed last night claiming the lives of eight of their teammates and injuring seven others.

Jack Lohrke, third baseman, recalled yesterday by San Diego, left the bus at Ellensburg yesterday afternoon to board a train for California.

Pitchers Milt Kadinka, 24, and Joe Faria, 25, drove to Bremerton with their wives in private automobiles.

Reported missing for some time, Pitcher Gus Hallbourg, turned up in Ellensburg having hitched a ride there instead of coming to a Seattle hospital. Receiving only minor cuts and bruises, Hallbourg was one of the least injured in the crash.

"I had just looked around and remarked to Bob Kenniman that this would be a terrible place to go off the road," Hallbourg said. "Just about that time, the bus crashed thru the rail.

"I saw a big sheet of flame, and the bus started rolling over, toppling down the hillside.

"Flames were pouring out of the bus, and the fellows were thrown out and strewn all over the hillside. When I recovered consciousness at the bottom, I dived out the window."

Hallbourg said the only persons he saw after he recovered consciousness were Lyden, Konopka and McCormack.

Benjamin Geraghty, who was taken to King county Harborview hospital said he remembered the bus toppling over the cliff and starting its downward roll.

"I went thru the window—flames and all," Geraghty said. "Then, the next thing I remembered, I was climbing up the hill toward the highway. I don't remember anything after going thru the window."

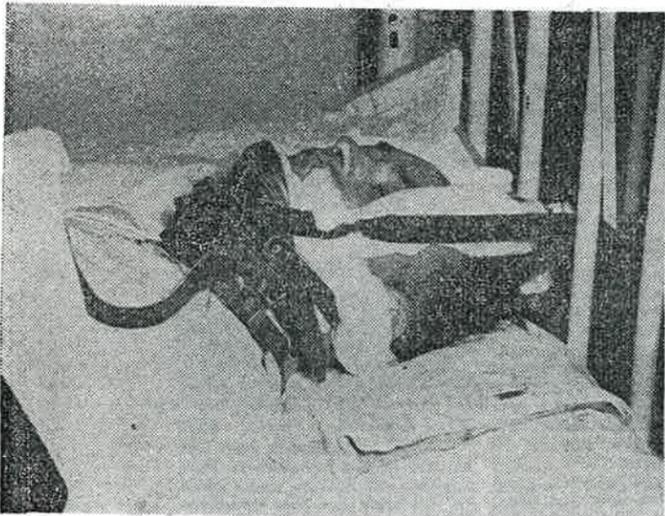
Ball Club Co-Owner Plans Flight Here

SPOKANE—(UP)—Mrs. Joyce Collins Galle, one of the owners of the Spokane Western International league baseball team, will leave here today by plane for Seattle to make funeral arrangements for the eight team members killed in a bus crash in Snoqualmie pass last night.

Mrs. Galle will be accompanied by Mrs. Ben Geraghty, wife of the second baseman who was one of the victims.

Mrs. Gus Hallbourg, whose husband is in the Ellensburg hospital, also will leave today to be with her husband.

The team is owned by Sam Collins and his two daughters, Mrs. Galle and Mrs. Marjorie Pyle.



DOCTORS, FEARING that Richard Powers, Spokane ball player, has a fractured neck, have placed his head in a special brace. He is shown above on his bed at Harborview hospital. He is a member of the ball team which went over a precipice in a bus tragedy on Snoqualmie pass last night, killing and injuring many.

Fatal Bus Crash Wreckage



WHERE SEVEN DIED—The smashed wreckage of the chartered bus in which seven Spokane ball-players were killed when it plunged off the shoulder of a mountain high on Snoqualmie Pass is shown still burning where it came to rest after rolling into canyon. For this timely photograph, made after a hazardous climb down the dangerous mountainside, John Bullard of 10317 Stone Ave., Seattle, receives \$25 from the Post-Intelligencer. (Additional pictures on back page.)



RAGING HOLOCAUST—Still burning fiercely, the chartered bus that plunged off Snoqualmie Highway last night with a toll of seven dead and nine injured, is shown in this remarkable picture by Ken Harris, Post-Intelligencer staff photographer, where it halted astride a log after hurtling 300 feet down the slope. All but one of the victims were Spokane baseball team players.

Hurt in Mountain Tragedy



LUCKY—While others were killed or badly hurt, Peter Barisoff, shown here on arrival at the hospital, escaped with bruises.

SURVIVORS—An ambulance load of the Snoqualmie Pass bus crash victims who escaped with their lives, though some of them were seriously hurt, is shown being unloaded upon arrival at the Snoqualmie Hospital. The staff of the small hospital performed yeoman service in giving emergency treatment. (Story on Page 1.)

—(Picture by John M. (Hack) Miller, Post-Intelligencer Staff Photographer.)

Eyewitness Describes Crash Scene

(Following is the eye-witness account of the scene of disaster a Seattle photographer found when he lowered himself by rope last night into the canyon where seven died in the flaming crash of a Seattle-bound chartered bus loaded with baseball players. The picture he made is on Page 1.)

By John Bullard

As Told to a Post-Intelligencer Reporter

I have "covered" many tragic accidents, taking pictures for the state patrol, but never have I seen anything like I saw tonight. It was like a nightmare—the smashed bus burning in the canyon and the rain slatting down and the mountains looming around.

It was one hour from the time I heard the word of the crash on a police radio out on Aurora Ave. until I arrived at the scene where the bus had gone through the railing and into the canyon. The splintered guard rail still lay there, and down below in the dark of the canyon could be seen still burning fiercely. Traffic was at a halt on a ledge from the scene, so the ambulances could get in and out.

The state patrol and forest service men had the rope to a net at the guard rail—it hung down the steep slope of the mountainside to within about 75 feet of the bus, 300 feet below. I took my camera in one hand, used my coat like a glove to keep the rope from burning my other hand as I slid down, and started for the wreck.

A forest service man went with me. We had to inch our way down, to keep from starting an avalanche of rocks. All the way down we passed baggage strewn along the mountainside by the bus as it turned over and over.

We saw three bodies, scattered in the brush where they had been flung from the falling wreckage. Parts of the bus lay strewn along the way also, where they had been torn off as it tumbled down.

At the bottom we found the smashed ruins of the bus, still blazing furiously, with state patrol-



KILLED—Vic Picetti, first baseman, who lost his life in the Snoqualmie Pass bus tragedy. Picture made while he was with the San Francisco Missions.

men and forest service men fighting the fire with shovelfuls of earth. Others were looking through the brush for bodies of the missing.

AT SCENE OF WRECK

-:-

PATROLMAN INJURED

Casualties Listed In Bus Accident



Anxiously waiting for State Patrolmen to finish erecting a portable floodlighting system for recovering six bodies on the mountainside, Roscoe (Torchy) Torrance (left), vice president of the Seattle Rainiers, and Coroner John F. Brill, Jr., watched the task.



Trapped beneath a heavy boulder when it tumbled over during recovery of the bodies, State Patrol Sgt. O. C. Furseth received first aid.

Following is the complete casualty list on the bus and injured in the bus disaster on the Snoqualmie Pass Highway last night. All injured are in King County Hospital except where otherwise indicated.

The Dead (IDENTIFIED)

VIC PICETTI, former Oakland ballplayer, dead on arrival at King County Hospital.

GEORGE C. RISK, 27, an infielder from Hillsboro, Ore.

FREDERICK T. MARTINEZ, an infielder from San Diego, Calif.

(UNIDENTIFIED)

(The following four names are those of the four players known to be on the bus who were not among the injured survivors. Four bodies were burned beyond recognition.)

Manager Mel Cole of Wenatchee. Bob Kinnaman, a pitcher from Brooklyn, Wash.

Outfielder Bob James, Tempe, Ariz.

Outfielder Bob Patterson, San Francisco.

The Injured

Chief Levi McCormack, former Seattle ballplayer, head injury condition fair.

Richard Powers, Oakland, Calif., severe head injuries, possible broken neck, condition fair.

George Lyden, head injuries, first degree burns, condition poor.

Erwin Konapki, Moscow, Idaho; head injury, condition fair, King County Hospital.

Benjamin Garaghty, Spokane, head lacerations, King County Hospital. He played for Sacramento earlier this season and last year was with the Indianapolis ball club.

His home is in New Jersey.

Glen C. Berg, 24, Spokane, driver of the bus, bad burns, condition critical, Virginia Mason Hospital.

Peter Barisoff, Spokane, treated for cuts and bruises and released from King County Hospital.

Chris Hartje, 30, Spokane, bad burns; condition critical.

Darwin Hallbourg, pitcher, of Boston; taken to an Ellensburg hospital.

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The accident occurred about 7:30 p. m., one mile west of the summit.

A scene of wild destruction and death greeted rescuers who made their way down to the flaming bus.

Bodies were scattered at intervals on the hillside, and one was found 100 feet beyond the bus. The wheels and axle were torn off 150 feet down the slope and part of a door 75 feet from the highway. Baggage was hurled in all directions.

One hundred and fifty autos and trucks were delayed at the scene by state patrolmen. They directed traffic through one lane at a time. C. E. Anderson was the first state patrolman to arrive.

Soon about 20 emergency cars, including the coroner's hearse, state patrol and sheriff's cars and five ambulances, had arrived.

Al Kuzmoski, 310 17th Ave. N., Seattle, and Glenn Spencer, Yakima, driving east on the highway, were only 200 yards away when they saw the bus suddenly leave the highway.

"I just saw the tail-end of the bus disappearing down the slope," Kuzmoski said. "We stopped at the edge and saw the bus rolling over and over, straight down."

"Spencer and I climbed down the steep slope. When we got to the burning bus wreckage, some of the passengers were crawling out."

Clarence Toner of Bremerton was another of those who arrived soon after the sickening crash and helped out the injured. Others were Ed Haller of Kirkland, driver of another Washington Motor Coach Company bus, and Nelson I. Allen of Prosser, truck driver.

"I was about 1,000 feet away when the bus pitched over the bank," said Allen. "I took a small line off my truck and roped down to the wreckage. The driver of the wrecked bus, Glen C. Berg of Spokane, was one of the first victims hauled up to the road. Every man in the wrecked bus seemed to be burned or have some kind of injury."

Allen dragged two injured men out of the flaming bus.

"I heard guys screaming inside," he said. "I tried to go back in, but the flames were too hot. A couple came walking out."

3 PLAYERS ESCAPE

Investigators at the scene reported the wrecked bus was a rather small, 25-passenger affair known as a "jeep bus."

A pitcher for the Spokane club, named Candini, and another pitcher whose name was not immediately learned, escaped the accident as they were traveling in a private car.

Another who escaped was Jack Lohrke, who left the bus at Ellensburg and returned to Spokane, according to the Associated Press.

Victims were given emergency treatment at North Bend and at Snoqualmie Falls Hospital and brought to Seattle in the ambulances.

Bus Plunge Survivor 'Lucky'

ELLENSBURG, June 24—(AP)—A member of the Spokane baseball team who survived a crash of the club's chartered bus in the Cascade Mountains tonight said after being brought here:

"Men were scattered all over the hill."

He is Gus Hallbourg, a right-handed pitcher. With a burned right hand and burns about the arms, he said:

"I guess I was one of the lucky ones."

Hallbourg added:

"I turned to Bob Kinnaman and said, 'This would be a hell of a place to go over, wouldn't it?' I turned back and we were going through the fence."

"The bus caught fire almost right away as it rolled down. It must have been about 500 feet down. You could see the rocks of the hillside flying past as we rolled. I rode her clear to the bottom."

"I guess I was knocked unconscious for a bit when we landed. When I came to, the inside of the bus was all flames. I dove out through a window."

He said rescuers from the highway helped him back up the steep slope and "when I left the bus it was just ashes."

Player Says, 'I Was Lucky'

Ben Garaghty, 31, second baseman for the Spokane baseball club, said he was lucky.

"I was thrown right out a window as the bus turned over," he said as he lay on a stretcher at King County Hospital. "I took the window frame right with me."

"I remember flying out the window, but I must have been knocked out because I don't remember landing."

"When I came to, I had lost a lot of blood and felt pretty weak but I got up on my feet and walked back up that hill. I don't remember about the wreck right now, I just know I went back up that hill."

Suffering head and knee injuries, Garaghty was taken to surgery to have a scalp laceration treated.

"I've got a wife and three kids in Spokane," he said. "I guess I'm pretty lucky to come out alive."

Car Plummets 300 Ft., Then Bursts Into Flaming Pyre

Nine Injured in Wreckage

Seven baseball players were killed last night in the spectacular crash of a specially chartered Washington Motor Coach Company bus which rolled down a 300-foot bank near the summit of Snoqualmie Pass Highway and burst into flames.

by a drizzling rain, roped down the muddy bank to the bottom of the ravine with the aid of flickering red emergency flares and spotlights which cast a garish light over the scene of horror.

Eight other passengers, all of them members of the Western International League Spokane baseball team, en route to play in Bremerton today, were injured, some of them critically.

Bodies of Four Others Taken From Charred Bus

The driver of the bus, Glen C. Berg, was one of the first victims hauled up to the road. Every man in the wrecked bus seemed to be burned or have some kind of injury.

also critically injured.

The identified dead were Vic Picetti, former Oakland ballplayer; George C. Risk, 27, Hillsboro, Ore., and Frederick T. Martinez, San Diego.

The bodies of four other men were brought up from the charred remains of the bus. They could not be immediately identified, but a check against the known passenger list and the names of injured left the following as missing and presumed to be the four unidentified: Manager Mel Cole of Wenatchee; Bob Kinnaman, Brooklyn, Wash.; Bob James, Tempe, Ariz., and Bob Patterson, San Francisco.

King County Coroner John Brill Jr. was at the scene to take charge of the bodies and aid in the investigation.

Pitching off the highway suddenly, for an as yet unexplained reason, the bus was smashed into a mass of wreckage and burst into flame as it rolled over and over sideways down the

Ambulances Bring in Dead, Injured From Bus

By Fergus Hoffman

With calm swiftness, orderlies and ambulance attendants lifted the stretchers from the ambulances and rolled them into the King County Hospital emergency ward last night.

"This man is dead," a white-clad doctor murmured after a swift inspection.

"It's Vic, the best player on the club," sighed Pete Barisoff, burly young catcher. Tears welled in his eyes and rolled down his begrimed face.

"Tag this one for surgery!" the doctor ordered, bending over a second stretcher. Orderlies wheeled George Lyden, 22, pitcher, to a waiting elevator.

INJURED ROLL IN
In ambulances and even in a hearse, the injured Spokane ball players arrived from the tragic scene where their chartered bus plunged down a Snoqualmie Pass cliff to destruction.

Nurses hurriedly took snatches of information from those who could talk—name, home telephone number. Three physicians made preliminary diagnoses, then sent the accident victims to surgery or X-ray.

In an office beside the stretcher-lined hallway, a clerk calmly placed long distance calls to homes up and down the coast.
"Yes, King County Hospital in Seattle; Washington . . . Your husband is in fair condition . . . your son suffered a possible broken shoulder—he's doing as well as can be expected . . ."
At regular intervals the emergency telephone rang and the nurse answered, then said quietly: "State Patrol reports another ambulance inbound crossing the floating bridge." Orderlies went to the door to wait.
Roscoe Torrance, vice president of the Seattle Rainiers, arrived to represent the Spokane Western International League Club.
"There's Vic Picetti, voted the most promising young player on the Coast last year," he said. "I can't account for six others."
The state patrol accounted for them. They were dead, too.



CRASH VICTIM—Swathed in bandages, Chief Levi McCormack who suffered a head injury when the bus in which he and other Spokane baseball players were riding plunged down 300 feet in Snoqualmie Pass, is shown at King County Hospital with Ambulance Driver Ray Noble. —(Post-Intelligencer Photos.)

Bottom Fell From Under Us, Says Survivor of Accident

Only two men remained in the shattered bus when it crashed against the rock-littered foot of an embankment in Snoqualmie Pass last night, killing seven Spokane baseball players and injuring eight other players and the driver.

One was Pete Barisoff, 20, a pitcher from Los Angeles. The other was big, bulky Irvin Konopka, 26-year-old University of Idaho athlete and Spokane catcher. Konopka was gravely hurt. Barisoff had come through lucky. His nose was scratched and one ankle was chipped.

"I was lucky," Barisoff said today at Harborview County Hospital. "So was Irv. I got him out. If I'd been hurt as bad as he was we both would have cooked in the fire."

"I was asleep in back of the bus when it happened. A lurch woke me up. I blinked at the lights scattering all over the highway. Then the bottom fell out from under us. I heard the damndest screaming and yelling. We were sinking miles an hour. It was like jumping off a 10-story building."

"I think we rolled as we fell."

dows. I must have passed out going down because I came to hearing a small voice growing bigger. It was Konopka yelling.

"He cried, 'Get me! I'm in back of the bus! My back's busted! Get me!'"

"I shook my dizzy head and wormed back through the wreck for Irv. He's terribly heavy, 225 or so. I dragged him out and pulled him another 25 yards and put him behind a rock to keep him safe. I expected the 'gas' tank to explode."

Barisoff, chubby and round-faced, sat up in bed. He was bare to the waist.

"I don't know why this had to happen to us," he said sadly. "We were getting along swell. Now we're shot. Half the team's dead and the rest won't play for a long time."

"Poor ol' Konopka was signed to play pro football with the Detroit Lions this fall. He won't."

A nurse came in with telephoned regards from a Seattle girl.

"Yeah, I know her," Barisoff acknowledged. "She's Bob's girl. Bob Kinnaman. He's dead."

Barisoff said his wife and baby

Spokane was to have met today.

Five in Harborview

Five of the surviving members of the wreck-riddled Spokane baseball team lay this forenoon in a seventh-floor ward at Harborview.

George Lyden, 22, pitcher, was in an oxygen tent, suffering from burns on the face and chest and head and face lacerations. Next to him lay Konopka, wearing a brace on his neck and shoulders.

Against the opposite wall lay Dick Powers, 26, pitcher, victim of a possible neck fracture and head injuries.

Powers had shouted all night long. His team mates kept calling to him, telling him to take it easy.

Some of their comments were from the ball diamond, the old phrases of encouragement to pitchers—"Come on, boy" . . . "Slow it up" . . . "Bear down, Dick."

Chief Levi McCormack, one-time Seattle Rainier outfielder, lay between Powers and Ben Geraghty.

The stoical Indian's nose had been broken and he had face and head lacerations. Levi lay on his side. He spoke quietly to Geraghty.

Family in Spokane

Geraghty, whose wife and three children are in Spokane, ran a hand lightly over the wrappings on his head. One thumb was bandaged. He said he had a fractured knee.

"It doesn't seem real to wake up in a hospital," Geraghty said. "It isn't clear to me yet what happened. Everything went so fast."

"You know those aluminum frames around bus windows? I shot out as we rolled downhill and when I stopped rolling I was wearing a frame on my neck. I looked down at the bus, a hundred feet below. It was burning. I felt like hell."

Geraghty has been in professional



PETER BARISOFF **BEN GERAGHTY**

ball 11 years. He was with Brooklyn in 1936, laid off in 1937, played with Trenton, N. J., in 1938, signed with Washington the next year but didn't report due to a salary disagreement, went to the Boston Braves for three years, then to Syracuse, Indianapolis, Sacramento and on to Spokane this year. His home is at Livingston, N. J.

STAR JUN 25 1946

Spokane Will Continue Despite Tragic Wreck

TACOMA, Wash.—(UP)—Spokane will "definitely" remain in the Western International baseball league despite the bus wreck that killed seven players and injured eight others, league President Robert B. Abel said here today.

"It's too early to tell how, but we will reorganize the Spokane Indians somehow," Abel said.

He added he would confer with Sam Collins, owner of the Indians, either in Seattle or Spokane later today to map tentative plans to meet the emergency.

"Naturally, there is no league rule to cover such a situation," he commented.

"In any case, the remaining league teams will play as scheduled," he said after hasty telephone conversations with all league owners.

He said Bremerton, against whom Spokane was to have opened a series in the navy yard city tonight, would remain idle this week "until we have a chance to gather up loose ends and make definite plans."

Following is a list of the dead and injured ball players, with a brief summary of their diamond careers:

The dead:
Bob Kinnaman, 28, Brooklyn, Wash., pitcher. Starred for Washington State College in 1936, 1937, 1939. Went to Twin Falls of the Pioneer league in 1939 and pitched for Spokane in 1940 and 1941. Joined the army and saw service in England, France and Germany. Served overseas for 29 months during his four years in the army. Joined Oakland in Pacific Coast league this spring and optioned to Spokane.

Bob Paterson, 23, San Francisco, Cal., outfielder. Started with Idaho Falls, Idaho, in the Pioneer league and played for one year. Joined the coast guard in which he served three years. Signed with Oakland in the Pacific Coast

Met Cole, 23, Sacramento, Cal., catcher-manager. Played with Tacoma in 1938, Wenatchee in 1939-1940 in the Western International league. Enlisted in the navy and played with the Pasco, Wash., Flyers. Served 19 months overseas. Discharged in October, 1945. Widow survives at Spokane.

George Risk, 23, Hillsboro, Ore., shortstop. Graduated Pacific university in Oregon. Entered army in 1942, discharged in 1945. Stationed for three years in Salt Lake City where he played baseball for the army. Widow, Spokane.

Fred Martinez, 23, San Diego, Cal., rightfielder. Played with junior American Legion team for three years. Went to Americas in the Georgia-Florida league. Enlisted in the navy and spent three years in the Pacific. Played baseball for the navy in Hawaii. Discharged in November, 1945.

Victor Picetti, 19, San Francisco, Cal., first baseman. Played American Legion junior baseball and semi-pro baseball. Went directly to the Oakland team of the Pacific Coast league. Was voted the most promising player in the Western International league this spring.

Bob James, 25, Tempe, Ariz., outfielder. Played semi-pro baseball in Phoenix, Ariz. Then went with Idaho Falls, Idaho, in the Pioneer league. Served in the navy. Discharged in the fall of 1945. Optioned to Spokane from Binghamton, N. Y., in the Eastern league.

George Lyden, 25, Tensed, Ida., pitcher, married. Critical condition with head injuries and burns.

The injured and their condition:
Irv Konopka, 27, Moscow, Ida., catcher. Unsatisfactory condition with head injuries.

Levi McCormack, 32, Lapwai, Ida., leftfielder, unmarried. Unsatisfactory condition with head injuries.

Benjamin Geraghty, 31, Livingston, N. J., second baseman. Satisfactory condition with head cuts.

Chris Hartje, 30, San Francisco, Cal., married. Critical condition with first and second degree burns.

Peter Barisoff, 24, Spokane Wash., pitcher. Minor injuries.

Richard Powers, 25, Spokane, pitcher, married. Head injuries.

Gus Hallbourg, San Francisco, Cal., pitcher, married. Minor injuries.

Glen Berg, 30, Spokane, driver of the bus. Cuts and minor injuries.

City Hit-Run Cases In June Reach 53

Fifty-three hit-run traffic accident cases have been reported to city police so far this month, Inspector Ted Ahner, head of the traffic division, revealed today.

Property damage and personal injuries, except in the accident last night in which Kenneth Rom-

suneth, 4, was killed, have been slight, Ahner said. Of the 53, 12 arrests were made and warrants for the arrest of eight others have been issued. The score compares with 65 cases in April and 56 in May.

"A good many hit-run arrests made were changed to reckless driving charges when evidence was insufficient to prove the party guilty of hit-run," Ahner explained.

TIMES JUN 26 1946

TRAFFIC SURVEY AT DEATH SCENE

An immediate investigation of traffic conditions near the 3700 block of West Holden Street, where a 4-year-old boy was killed by a hit-run driver Monday night, was ordered today by Acting Mayor, M. B. Mitchell.

Mitchell instructed the city engineer's office to survey the area for possible traffic hazards after residents presented a petition demanding installation of traffic lights or stop signs.

The petitioners were headed by R. Langmead, 3811 W. Holden St., whose two small daughters were playing with Kenneth Romuneth, 3724 W. Holden, when he was killed. Police are conducting a search for the driver of the death car.

The petition stated that "all the automobiles race to make the grade from 38th Avenue Southwest and West Holden Street, up to 35th Avenue Southwest, and they come down even faster. There should be a stop sign to prevent them from racing, also some slow signs. Surely, it is not asking too much that our children be protected."

The petition particularly asked that a stop sign be placed at 40th

JUN 26 1946

STAR

(Paid Advertisement)

Return OTTO H. MITTELSTADT as Coroner

RE-ELECT BRILL CORONER

P.L. JUN 25 1946

6TH BUS CRASH VICTIM DIES

(Picture on Back Page)

Death, having already claimed eight lives in the plunge of a chartered bus from Snoqualmie Pass Highway, hovered close above two other surviving passengers late yesterday in Seattle hospitals.

George Lyden, 22, pitcher for the Spokane baseball club, died at King County Hospital early yesterday afternoon.

Of the survivors injured in the Monday night tragedy, two were listed as critical and physicians battled with plasma and surgery to save their lives.

They were Chris Hartje, 30, of San Francisco, at King County Hospital, and Glen Berg, 24, Spokane, driver of the bus.

BADLY BURNED

Both Hartje and Berg were badly burned when the bus caught fire as it turned and twisted down the rain-swept mountainside.

Of the hospitalized survivors, only Ben Geraghty, 31, of Spokane was described as in "satisfactory condition." He suffered a broken knee and scalp lacerations.

"I told the children their prayers saved you!" exclaimed young Mrs. Geraghty as she arrived at his bedside late yesterday. "They always pray for daddy to get hits and come home early."

The Geraghtys, whose home is in Spokane, have three young children. Mrs. Geraghty flew from Spokane late yesterday.

At King County Hospital in unsatisfactory condition were Richard Powers, 26, Oakland, head and spine injuries; Chief Levi McCormack, 33, Spokane, facial injuries, and Erwin Konopka, 26, Moscow, Idaho, fractured neck.

OTHERS KILLED

Besides Lyden, the dead were listed by Coroner John Brill as Mel Cole, team manager; Robert Kinnaman, Brooklyn, Wash.; Robert James, Tempe, Ariz.; George C. Risk, 27, Hillsboro, Ore.; Frederick T. Martinez, San Diego; Vic Picetti, Oakland, and Robert Paterson, San Francisco.

While state and county authorities started an investigation of the accident, the players who were able to talk unanimously agreed that their bus swerved to the right to avoid another machine approaching on the wrong side of the road.

Swerving, the bus smashed through a guard rail and down the mountainside, rolling over and over. By the time the first witnesses could reach the scene, the bus was in flames and the baseball players were scattered for a hundred yards across the steep slope.

SERVICES ARRANGED

Under arrangements by Joseph R. Manning and Son, the bodies of seven of the victims will be moved to their home towns for funeral services. The body of Risk was taken to Kelso yesterday under arrangements by Butterworth and Sons.

Services for the others, although no time has been set as yet, will be held as follows:

Lyden at Tekoa, Wash.; Cole at Sacramento; Martinez at San Diego, and Picetti and Paterson at San Francisco. Arrangements are to be made today for James and Kinnaman.

Kenny Romunseth's Slayer Sent Message

By Anne Stewart

To the man or woman whose car struck a small, laughing youngster on W. Holden St. Monday at twilight—the man or woman who slowed down after the thud of impact and then picked up speed and drove away, two grieving parents directed a plea yesterday.

"Please. Give yourself up." Perhaps, the parents admitted, it couldn't be helped. Small boys at play move quickly.

But, reunited in sorrow as they made arrangements for the burial of their 4-year-old son, J. E. Romunseth and his estranged wife Florence puzzled over the kind of a

RETURN A VETERAN TO HIS JOB

JOHN P. BRILL, JR., IS THE ONLY VETERAN AND THE ONLY UNION CANDIDATE FOR CORONER.

P.L.

'Give Up,' Plea Of Dead Boy's Parents to Hit-Run Driver



BEREAVED—Mrs. Florence Romunseth, mother of the 4-year-old boy killed by hit-run driver Monday evening, allowed this photograph to be taken of herself and her daughter yesterday in the hope that the driver might see it and give himself up, and that other drivers would learn a lesson from it. —(Post-Intelligencer Photo.)

To a Hit-Run Driver

Are you the Seattle motorist who is trying to forget?

Grieving parents of a dead four-year-old boy pleaded yesterday that you stop fighting that memory and give yourself up.

It was dusk of a June day and you were driving east on a quiet street—W. Holden St. There is a sign there, "SLOW—Children At Play," but you didn't heed that sign if you saw it.

Just what you did see only you know, but it is certain that you felt and heard a sharp thud and that you slowed down for an instant. Perhaps you turned to look at the still, crumpled form of a little boy. But you did not stop. Perhaps you thought that speed and distance together could shake loose the memory.

That boy's parents know that even with time you won't forget. That memory is with you today and even if you always hurry it will not leave.

There is nothing much you can do for those parents now. Their son is dead. You cannot bring him back. But you can restore their faith in the decency of humanity.

Perhaps you could even do a bit to keep such heart-break from coming to another home. You might want to warn other motorists to watch for those signs reading "Slow" and "Caution" and "Stop." You might be able to tell of that losing fight you've been waging against memory, so that another driver, on another street, might stop instead of speeding away.

How about it? Why not give yourself up? Now!



FOR THE FUNERAL

The small victim's sister, Jo Ann, who is 8 years old, and does not quite realize that death is forever, accompanied her parents yesterday as they made arrangements for funeral services at 2 p. m. Saturday at the West Seattle Funeral Home with burial in Washelli Babyland.

And afterwards, when there was nothing more to do, the three of them drove home and turned in the driveway and looked for a minute at a sign a few feet away:

"SLOW. Children at play."

It was a sign that somebody didn't read.

Seattle Post-Intelligencer Wed., June 26, 1946 5* 26

Faith - And Hope



PRAYERS SAVED HIM—Ben Geraghty, Spokane ball club player who escaped from the tragic bus accident Monday night with a head injury and fractured knee, is visited by his wife at King County Hospital. Mrs. Geraghty attributed his escape from the death that claimed eight others to the nightly prayers of their three children. (Story on Page 5.) —(Post-Intelligencer Photo.)

stop.

NOT A PARENT

"Nothing could have saved Kenny," said the dad. "He was too badly hurt. But sometimes prompt care could save a life."

"I don't know whether the driver who struck Kenny was a man or a woman, young or old. But I am quite sure it wasn't a father—or a mother."

"There isn't much anyone can do to help us now. But that driver could help himself by giving up. I don't see how he can live the rest of his life with that memory."

Pushing their day and night investigation on pitifully meager information, police yesterday echoed the Romunseths' pleas.

"That driver will be a lot better giving himself up then waiting for us to catch him," Special Traffic Investigator M. E. Cook said.

DESCRIPTIONS CONFLICT

After canvassing the neighborhood of Mrs. Romunseth's home at 3724 W. Holden St., Cook said he had only vague and conflicting descriptions of the death car. Neil W. Lane, the neighbor who picked the crumpled form of Kenneth Robert Romunseth from the street, said the car was two-toned, of blue and buff. Youngsters playing in the street at the time said the car was of solid blue.

No tracks were left on the smooth black-top and no means of identifying the car were found. Cook said the search will continue on a 24-hour-a-day basis.

He also said statements of neighbors definitely established the fact that the driver must have been aware of the collision.

"The impact was heard a half-block away," Cook explained. Mrs. Romunseth herself hurried out of the house after hearing the

TIMES JUN 26 1946

DOCTORS BATTLE TO SAVE HARTJE

Physicians worked desperately today to save the life of Chris Hartje, most critically injured of the seven surviving Spokane baseball players who were hurt when a chartered bus crashed 300 feet down a mountainside in Snoqualmie Pass Monday night. Eight players were killed and the bus driver was injured critically.

State Patrol Sergt. O. C. Furseth, injured during the recovering of the bodies, was taken yesterday afternoon to the New Renton Hospital with a severe leg injury. He and State Patrolman H. R. Ferguson were trapped by a rock slide during rescue work. Ferguson was confined to his bed today with a severely sprained ankle.

Condition Grave

Physicians at Harborview County Hospital described the condition of Hartje, 30 years old, of San Francisco, as extremely grave. He was burned when the bus caught fire. Nine plasma transfusions and saline solutions were administered to Hartje last night.

The list of dead rose to eight yesterday afternoon when George Lyden, 22-year-old pitcher, died in Harborview.

Hospital physicians reported Richard Powers, 26, still was in critical condition, though he improved during the night.

Levi McCormack, 33, also has shown improvement, but still was

over

Barisoff Released
 Pete Barisoff, 20, was released yesterday and Benjamin Geraghty, 31, of Spokane, was scheduled for release today or tomorrow.
 Attendants at Virginia Mason Hospital said Glenn Berg, driver of the bus, was still in critical condition.
 The State Patrol said two branches of its organization were conducting investigations of the crash. Also investigating were Coroner John P. Brill, Jr., and the motor-carrier division of the Interstate Commerce Commission.
 Others killed besides Lyden were Mel Cole, Robert Kinnaman, Robert James, Robert Paterson, George C. Risk, Frederick T. Martinez and Vic Picetti.
 Bodies of Picetti and Paterson will be sent by plane to San Francisco, under direction of Joseph R. Manning & Sons' mortuary.
 Funeral arrangements for seven victims are being arranged by Mannings. The Risk services are being arranged by Butterworth's.

STAR JUN 27 1946
Victim's Own Story Varies From Others
Mystery Car Minus Lights Seen; Ninth Ball Player Succumbs

As a Seattle Star reporter listened at the bedside, Glen C. Berg, 24, driver of the special bus carrying the Spokane baseball club, painfully moved his burned lips today to tell Coroner John P. Brill Jr. his story of the tragic crash Monday night in Snoqualmie pass. The ninth victim died last night. Four remain critically injured.

On the basis of Berg's testimony, Brill at once demanded an exhaustive re-investigation by the state patrol of all facts surrounding the accident, and further interview of all witnesses.

"There is discrepancy—a lot of it—in testimony of the witnesses," the coroner said.

Salient points brought out by the questioning, Brill summarized, were as follows:

1—A startling new clue, in the possibility that the bus actually may have collided with an oncoming "mystery" car, was seen in Berg's assertion that "it seemed like the car hit us, there was a jar at the left front end."

2—Statement by Berg that the bus was not running properly, that the motor was running poorly with resultant loss of vacuum in the booster brakes, that he had in fact stopped in Ellensburg to have the gas line changed, "but it didn't seem to do any good."

3—Berg's statement that as he went up the hill he received an "all clear" headlight signal of two blinks from an oncoming Inland Motor Freight truck, which he acknowledged with a blink of his own.

4—The bus driver's statement that he didn't make any attempt to use his brakes at any time during the split seconds before the crash because "it would have tended to put the four wheels into a skid."

5—Berg's declaration that the "mystery" car did not have its headlights on, and that the bus was traveling "not over 28 miles an hour" at the time of the accident.

Brill pointed out the difference between Berg's statement and that of W. H. Coyle, of Pasco, who saw the end of the bus go over the embankment and declared that:

"I was traveling 45 or 50 miles an hour. The bus passed me. It was drizzly and the pavement was wet." He said it was a "few minutes" later that the wreck occurred.

Here are some sample questions by Brill and answers from Berg:

"What happened after you left Ellensburg?" "In the first place the engine wasn't running very good."

"What happens when the motor dies?" "The motor quits and the brakes don't work very good, no vacuum booster."

"Did you blink at anyone on the way up?" "Yes, I blinked lights with an Inland Motor freight truck, he gave me two clear lights, and I returned the signal."

"Was the accident caused by brakes?" "No, someone was on my side of the road."

"What kind of a car?" "Hard to designate because it was becoming dark."

"What did you do?" "I tried to skin by without hitting the guard rail."
 "Were brakes working?" "I didn't try them because I knew I was liable to lock all four wheels and would have a better chance by goosing it."
 "Were you thrown clear?" "No, I crawled out." "Was the other car passing a third car?" "It seems there was a truck ahead of the car. I think he was passing it."
 Berg did not know during Brill's interview that anyone had died in the accident, and the coroner did not mention it to him.
 Berg's mother and father Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Berg, were standing a constant vigil outside their son's room in the Virginia Mason hospital.
 The latest victim to die was Chris Hartje, 30-year-old catcher from San Francisco. Hartje succumbed in Harborview, King county hospital, to first and second degree burns.

TIMES JUN 27 1946

INFIELDER, ONE OF 3 TRIBE MEN LEFT, SEEN AS PILOT

Ben Geraghty, 31-year-old infielder who has wandered around the baseball world for a dozen years since leaving his home in Livingston, N. J., probably will be the third 1946 manager of the Spokane Indians.

Geraghty, who suffered a broken knee in the bus crash that virtually wiped out the Spokane club Monday evening, and Chief Levi McCormack will fly home to the Inland Empire City today.

Nine players have died from injuries suffered in the accident and three others, Catcher Irvin Konopka and Pitchers Dick Powers and Gus Hallbourg, still are in Harborview Hospital here.

The dead are Catcher-Manager Mel Cole; Catcher Chris Hartje, who died last night; Pitchers Bob Kinnaman, Bob James and George Lyden; Infielders Vic Picetti, George Risk and Fred Martinez, and Outfielder Bob Paterson.

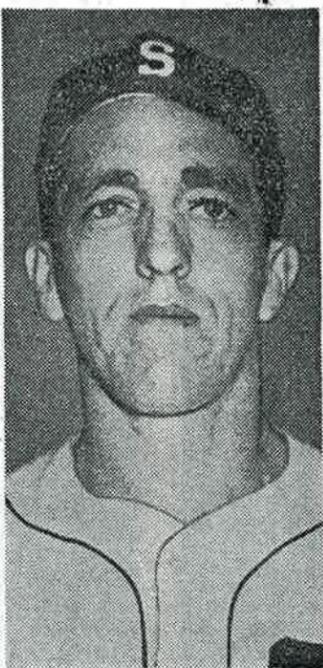
Pitcher Pete Barisoff previously had been discharged from the hospital.

Dwight Aden, business manager of the Indians, said this morning that Geraghty is the No. 1 choice to succeed Cole.

"I talked with Ben yesterday," said Aden, "and he's anxious to start organizing a new team. He can't be a playing manager for a time, but he has lots of enthusiasm and I think his choice would be popular with Spokane fans."

Geraghty formerly played with Boston and Brooklyn of the National League, Sacramento of the Pacific Coast League, Indianapolis of the American Association, and Trenton and Syracuse.

Glenn Wright, the former major league shortstopper, started at the helm of the Indians but was fired the day before the season opened and Mel Cole substituted for him. Cole had the Indians romping along in fifth place, on



BEN GERAGHTY
 He'll fly home with broken knee

the winning side of the ledger, when flaming death struck Monday night.

If Geraghty is given the job he must start rebuilding with three players—Pitchers Milt Cadinha and Joe Faria, who escaped the accident when they drove to Seattle with their wives, and Infielder Fred Lanifero, en route here from San Diego on option.

McCormack and Barisoff may be able to rejoin the club shortly.

Proffers of playing help have poured into Spokane baseball headquarters from the entire diamond world.

STAR JUN 27 1946

CANDIDATES' CORNER---

3-Way Coroner Fight Raises Lively Issues

The Seattle Star today presents the statements of candidates for the office of coroner. This is the last of the series of articles dealing with contested offices on which all citizens of King county will vote.

Candidates for county commissioner in the First (central) and Second (south) districts will be presented in succeeding issues of The Star. County commissioner candidates are voted upon only by citizens of their respective districts at the primary.

JOHN P. BRILL JR.

Democrat
 I believe that no man elected coroner should have outside business interests allied with the office. I have none. I am the only candidate who can make that statement.

During my 12 years in the office I have carried on a determined fight to correlate the activities of the coroner with other law enforcement agencies to avoid duplication of effort and added expense to the taxpayer.

I was born in Seattle, received my education in local schools and attended university before entering the coroner's office.

Today the King county coroner's office and morgue is recognized as the leading office on the West coast. I am the only veteran running for this office. I served with the U. S. navy in the South Pacific, participating in the invasion of Okinawa. I am a member of the Ballard Elks, Eagles and two labor organizations.

office has rendered to the public during my term.

OTTO H. MITTELSTADT

Democrat

For eight years as coroner of King county, assisted by the prosecuting attorney, law enforcement agencies and civic minded organizations, I waged a relentless fight to reduce traffic fatalities. Today we are confronted with an ever-increasing toll of deaths due to careless, reckless and drunken driving.

One of the most successful methods used by me as coroner to combat automobile fatalities was the "on the spot" inquests. Held at the scene of, and immediately following, a fatal accident, these inquests allowed the jury to hear testimony while all facts were clear in the minds of witnesses and before evidence might be removed or destroyed. One such inquest resulted in the resurfacing of Aurora avenue with nonskid blacktop, eliminating skidding fatalities on this important

Death Bus Driver Talks; Coroner Asks New Probe

stop signs, traffic lights at intersections, traffic islands, designated pedestrian cross-walks, reduced speed limits in residential areas and brought about better lighting conditions in the county, resulting in reducing accidents and fatalities.

FINCH HAGGARD
 (Republican)

The coroner's office is a law enforcement position parallel to and in co-operation with the sheriff and prosecuting attorney.

Are you satisfied with this phase of the coroner's office over the past several years? I am not!

I am entirely independent of the remuneration attached to this office. I therefore intend to administer the coroner's office in an absolutely fearless manner, efficiently and economically, independent of whatever might happen.

Under my administration all homicide or manslaughter inquests will have representation from the sheriff's office, prosecuting attorney's office and the coroner's office, which has not been the case in the past.

I am a pioneer of Washington, came to Seattle when 2 years of age, am a graduate of Washington State college with a specialized medical course that is a definite qualification for this position.

Brill Backs Bond Issue for Lights

Support for the proposed bond issue to give Seattle \$3,000,000 worth of improved street lighting was announced today by Coroner John P. Brill Jr., who also advocated three other points of his own to cut city traffic deaths.

"We must have better street lighting," Brill declared. "Along with it there must be vigorous prosecution of drunken driving, removal of traffic congestion, and a campaign to make pedestrians safety conscious."

Woman Hangs Herself

Mrs. Glenna May Tallman, 42, hanged herself yesterday in a shed near a neighbor, Coroner John P. Brill Jr. reported. The victim had been suffering a nervous breakdown, Brill said.

TIMES JUN 27 1946

DRIVER OF DEATH BUS BLAMES CAR

Glen C. Berg, 24-year-old driver of the bus which plunged off Snoqualmie Pass and killed or fatally injured nine baseball players Monday night, today told Coroner John P. Brill, Jr., the tragic accident was caused by another automobile, which forced the bus off the highway.

Christian Hartje, 30 years old, catcher for the Spokane Indians of the Western International League, died last night in Harborview County Hospital of burns suffered when the bus caught fire as it rolled 300 feet down the mountainside.

Berg said the bus had brake and engine trouble en route to Seattle from Spokane, and had stopped at Ellensburg for repairs, "which didn't seem to do any good."

More Investigation

After talking with Berg in Virginia Mason Hospital, Brill said a more thorough investigation was needed, as "there seems to be a lot of discrepancies in testimony from various witnesses."

Berg said that just before the accident he exchanged headlight blinks with a truck, the truck's signal indicating the road ahead of Berg was clear. However, Berg said, he met an automobile, on the wrong side of the road, a moment later.

Car Coming Up Hill

"It was coming up the hill, going east. It was coming up on my side of the road and I tried to get by, going off on the shoulder and trying not to hit the guard rail."

"Did you try the brakes?" Brill asked.
 "No, I was afraid the brakes might make the bus skid and throw us into the guard rail. I stepped on the gas so we would have a better chance of getting by," Berg said.

"It seemed like the car hit us, as I felt a jar at the left, front end," Berg went on. "We then struck the guard rail and began taking out the posts one by one. I lost control."

Berg said the other car did not have its lights on.

Berg's physician said the driver's condition was improving. Berg was burned on his arms, face, neck and legs.

Harborview physicians said Levi McCormack, 33 years old, was to be released today. Still in critical condition are Richard Powers, 26, of Oakland, Calif., and Erwin Konopka, 26, of Moscow, Idaho, both in Harborview.

Sergt. O. C. Furseth of the State Patrol, who suffered a bruised leg while helping recover the bodies, was discharged yesterday from New Renton Hospital.

Fall at Home Causes Death

Mrs. Rose Alice Thornton, 71 years old, died today in Harborview County Hospital of injuries suffered May 29 when she fell at her home, 343 N. 104th St. Funeral services will be held at 1 o'clock Saturday in Forkner's chapel. Burial will be in Washelli.

Mrs. Thornton is survived by two sons, Charles, Seattle, and Cecil, Woodinville, and a grandson, Chester.

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SECOND HIT-RUN DRIVER SOUGHT

Police today sought the hit-run driver of a 1929-model sedan which collided with another automobile at 11:45 o'clock last night, injuring two persons, at 14th Avenue and East Jefferson Street.

The sedan was abandoned a block away after colliding with an automobile driven by Mrs. A. E. Marshall, 25 years old, 1914 E. Columbia St., who suffered abrasions. Willie Edmond, 37, of 707 Sixth Ave. S., riding in Mrs. Marshall's car, suffered a head injury, broken ribs and lacerations. They were treated at Harborview County Hospital.

A \$500 reward was posted in another hit-run case. The reward is offered by the Aeronautical Mechanics' Union for information leading to arrest and conviction of the person or persons responsible for the traffic death of 4-year-old Kenneth Romunseth, Monday evening. The boy's father is a member of the union.

Automobiles Checked

M. E. Cook and K. W. Thomas, special traffic investigators, are checking all automobiles resembling the hit-run machine. The driver responsible for a hit-run death last year was arrested after 215 automobiles had been inspected.