

Wilmar N. Tognazzini <http://wntog.tripod.com/>

San Luis Obispo County Tribune, February 23, 1897

POZO.

A HEAVY FALL OF SNOW IN THE EASTERN PART OF THE COUNTY.

ED. TRIBUNE: We had a splendid rain on the 18th, the precipitation amounting to 2.65 inches.

Thursday night the barometer fell to the snowing mark, and Friday morning showed two inches on a level, and enough more fell during Friday and Friday night to make a fall of six inches, had it all fallen at one time. The storm extended over the Carisa Plains, and J.M. Hubble, the Simmler stage driver, reports a fall of 18 inches on the summit of the mountains between Pozo and La Panza.

...Messrs. Sinsheimer Bros. sold 500 head of cattle, all sizes and ages from their Avenals ranch on the 15th of this month, consideration \$8000. Mr. Clark of the Huer Huero was the purchaser of 250 head, which he moved through the valley on the following day, en route to the Sacramento ranch. The remaining 250 head were sold to Mr. E. Goodman of the Palo Prieta canyon, and were moved across the Carisa Plains via the Carisa ranch trail, from the Avenals.

June 22, 1897

Sunday evening there was a marriage in the Catholic church, Rev. Father Aguilera, officiating. The contracting parties were Mr. John B. King of Simmler and Miss Felicita Budar (sic) of this city. After the ceremony a feast and an enjoyable dance were participated in. Mr. (sic) is one of the enterprising ranchers of the Carissa Plains and to him and his bride the best wishes and congratulations of a host of friends are extended.

August 17, 1897

EXPLOSION IN THE SIMMLER MILL.

ONE END OF THE BOILER BLOWN OUT AND THE BUILDING WRECKED.

Engineer Lyle Taken from the Debris Seriously Scalded and Bruised.

The quiet peacefulness of the Carissa Plains has been broken into by a most frightful accident from which one man narrowly escaped with his life, and as it is, he is horribly burned and bruised.

Just at noon yesterday Messrs. N.H. Ivins and A.F. Hubbard of Simmler, arrived at the county hospital having in their care Mr. John W. Lyle, who was sadly in need of the attention of a physician. His bruised and bleeding face at once told the story that somewhere there had been an accident. A TRIBUNE representative was promptly on the scene, being the first of the local press to learn of the affair and having all the facts long before the accident was known to any one in this city.

N.H. Ivins very kindly told the story of the accident in which Mr. Lyle sustained his injuries. Told by him it is as follows:

About 1:30 Thursday afternoon the boiler in Hubbard's grist mill at Simmler bursted (sic). The front end blew completely out and the force of the explosion caused the boiler to turn end over end. Mr. Lyle who is the engineer at the mill was standing directly back of the engine at the time, and with not the slightest warning, he was suddenly engulfed in the wreck and buried under the boiler. The arrangement of the mill is such that the engine is firmly imbedded in the concrete floor of the basement and directly overhead is a storeroom where the grain is placed. The shock shattered the floor over the engine, upon which the grain, some 150 sacks, was stored, and as a result a part of this grain was added to the confused mass about the wreck of the engine and served to still further bury Engineer Lyle from view. Still in command of his voice Lyle shouted to the mill hands to hurry up and remove him from the wreck, that he was considerably injured. In this work the men about the mill were aided by Messrs. Henry Kavanaugh, John

Jasper, Thomas Morris and William Hubbard. After hard work they finally located and removed him from the pile of debris. He was taken to the Hubbard residence and an effort was made to wash the dirt and ashes from his face, but the attempt brought the skin with it, for Lyle's face was completely cooked, being scalded by the water from the boiler. It was found that nothing more could be done than to bathe his face in cold water and bandage it up, which was done, and the start was made for this city at 6 o'clock, three hours after the accident, there being no doctor at Simmler.

Geo. W. Michael the miller, escaped without any injuries. Mr. Hubbard the proprietor of the mill, was struck by a flying splinter and received a bruise over the left temple. Lewt Zerfing, a boy who handles the grain sacks and who was standing upon the portion of the floor which was torn up, was thrown to the basement, but alighted feet first on the pile of debris and escaped without any serious injuries although his face and arms were bruised and slightly scalded and his legs bruised also. He had a close call.

Lyle, the injured man was carefully cared for at the hospital by Dr. Sinclair. His face is cooked into a jelly, apparently, and his burns and bruises are many about the body. It is feared that several of his ribs are broken on the left side as he complains of considerable pain in that region of the body. He is a man about 55 years of age, but he has the nerve of a person of 30, and it is thought that he will recover in due time. Mr. Lyle has been the engineer at the Hubbard mill for three years, and has worked at odd jobs about the Plains when the mill was not in operation. He has been a skilled machinist in his day and has always been trusted with every detail of the work assigned him. In driving to this city the rough roads caused him great pain, but he never so much as complained. At the time of the accident Lyle was just on the point of walking around to a place in front of the boiler and had he reached that place he would have been blown to atoms.

About one third of the building was torn to pieces by the force of the explosion and the entire structure narrowly escaped destruction by fire. The machinery of the mill remained uninjured. Flames broke out in several places immediately following the explosion and they would have taken the building and burned the engineer in the ruins had it not been that very luckily only a few hours before a tank of water had been hauled to a point only a few feet from the mill. Its contents were promptly turned upon the incipient blaze.

October 5, 1897

PASO ROBLES, Oct. 7.—A.T. Pruess, Clarke Smith and J.F. Burkett returned today from a week's hunt from the Carissa. They brought back seven fine bucks.

December 5, 1897

OLIVER - At the Carissa, Dec. 5, 1897, John R. Oliver, a native of Azores Islands, aged 42 years.

Feb 14, 1898

John M. Taylor has leased to Miller & Lux for a period of four and a half years, at \$750 per year, certain lands near the Carissa Plains.

March 29, 1898

Jesus Garcia was being examined yesterday before Judge Egan on the charge of stealing a steer from the Dutard ranch on the Carissa plains. The examination was not completed.

September 17, 1899

The old Carissa ranch house occupied by Frank Fotheringham has been burned. The house was built forty years ago and was one of the land marks of the plains.