

HEROISM OF THE MUSSER FAMILY.

Full Narrative of the Inferno Through Which They Rushed.

BRAVE WIFE, COOL HUSBAND.

Story of Their Rude Awakening And Fight Against the Dangers Of Quake and Fire.

The Awful March to the Ferry and the Care Bestowed Upon the Injured And Helpless.

Special Correspondence.

San Francisco, April 23.—Throughout the awful week in San Francisco, with all its attendant horrors, the one bright ray has been the courage and almost superhuman endurance of the women. For the women, men did noble deeds, but it was the fortitude of their mothers, wives and sisters that spurred them on to do acts that will never be recorded for the simple reason that out of thousands of instances of bravery in the horror of the situation but few were noticed.

MORE OF MRS. MUSSER.

Last Wednesday morning Parley Musser, wife and little one, were at 915 Minna street, San Francisco. Today they are speeding back to the home city, Salt Lake, as fast as steam can take them. The full story of that already told in a meager dispatch to the "News," as related by Mrs. Musser, is one that should stir the heart of every resident of the Beehive state and make him feel proud that he is a Utahian and can call Mrs. Musser "sister."

CAME FROM SALT LAKE.

The Musser family came to San Francisco a couple of years ago. Mrs. Musser, who is a son of Hon. A. Milton Musser of Salt Lake, had an ambition to study medicine and surgery with the object in view of establishing a practice in Salt Lake. She had secured a building, miles away below that blurb of red-tinkered smoke.

WEAKENED BY PRIVATION.

Weakened by privation and hard work, the man, wife and child made their way down hill. They passed wagon after wagon, but the drivers only laughed when they asked them for help.

AWAKENED BY SHOCK.

At 5:15 on that fateful morning they were awakened by the earthquake shock, and the next instant the sleeping slats were the scene of the wildest confusion and panic. While men and women were racing through the building in their night clothes in order to reach the street, the Musser family dressed, or at least donned such attire as would not present them in public. Then and only then did they think of leaving that four-story building, containing 200 rooms. "Take the baby," said Mrs. Musser to her husband. "I will wait for me outside I am coming." Another shock hastened the steps of the family to the exit. Mr. Musser ran into the middle of the street, and his child, and then turned to find himself alone, as far as his wife was concerned.

DETECTED THE GAS.

Since the first shock rocked the building Mrs. Musser had been thinking that should another occur the gas pipes would be strained and broken. In fact, already she detected the smell of gas escaping. Acting on the impulse she retraced her steps and calmly searched for a monkey wrench. She found it in a light she descended to the dark basement and coolly turned off the gas at no less than 30 meters connecting with the 30 different sets of rooms in the building. While thus engaged three shocks occurred which threatened to bring the swaying building upon her brave little head. In the meantime Mrs. Musser was standing in the middle of the street waiting for what seemed the inevitable and frantically calling for his wife.

At last she appeared and they joined the throng of excited semi-nude people trembling on the street.

But everybody on that street did not tarry to shut off the gas at the meter. The sequel was that in a brief space of time smoke was observed to be issuing from several flats in the vicinity. In the distance down town could be heard the clang of the fire bells as the various departments raced in response to a general alarm sent in from the business district.

"COME QUICK," SHE SAID.

"Come quick," exclaimed Mrs. Musser, "let us save our things." She rushed back to the apartments and while the flames came nearer they picked out the most valuable of their effects. Mr. Musser had been saving for years to collect a valuable medical library, and he was loath to leave it to the flames. He selected the best books while his wife picked out the most useful articles of apparel, discarding anything that was not valuable, and never for a moment overlooking the fact that baby sat crouching on the floor and would need some things more than possibly they would.

SONGSTERS ALSO SAVED.

Much precious time was spent and the net result was a trunk packed to the limit and weighing 150 pounds, and a bundle of books strapped in blankets which was nearly as heavy. As they were leaving the suite the two pet canaries twittered. "Oh, I cannot let my birds perish," she exclaimed, so accordingly the songsters were added to the precious salvage.

AN HOUR OF EXCITEMENT.

Outside the street was practically deserted, for the panic-stricken people had fled before the rapidly advancing flames to higher ground. Then followed an hour of heart-breaking work and excitement. The flames leaping along the rows of lumber apartment houses like a forest fire threatened to overtake the refugees in a short time. Amid the drifting smoke Mr. Musser pulled that trunk along the streets until the castors were worn off and the bottom began to break out. But for the books he could have made better progress without having to leave part of his burden and return for it at intervals. At last an open space was reached, not much of a space, but it was on soft ground, and a tin bucket lay in plain view. Seizing the bucket Mr. Musser dug with frenzy and threw up the sand and dirt a quart at a time. By the time he had dug a hole deep enough for the books and had covered them over

THE NEWS WILL RECEIVE DONATIONS.

To the many generous people throughout the city and state who will desire to subscribe to the San Francisco relief fund, the Deseret News announces that it will receive all subscriptions, publish the names of donors and turn the money over as rapidly as received to those authorized to act for the stricken community.

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By this time martial law had been declared and the blue coats had taken a hand. One of the first orders was that none should walk on the high bank of rock which overlooked the blazing quarry where the refugees were gathered. Two volunteers attempted to climb this bank in order to view the fire and in both instances the sentries opened fire on them. Mrs. Musser saw one of men fall like a shot and another tumbled over the bank and rabbit and tumbled into the tank.

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Weakened by privation and hard work, the man, wife and child made their way down hill. They passed wagon after wagon, but the drivers only laughed when they asked them for help. At last one was encountered who was going in that direction. For the sum of \$4 he loaded up the books, trunk and canaries, and on Saturday they landed at the ferry.

With \$2, their effects and their lives they landed in Oakland, looking as though they had been through the Valley of the Styx.

In telling the story Mrs. Musser said that they could have had more ready help, as she had secured a basket prior to leaving their home, and was about to break open the toll box on the public telephone in the hallway when her hand was arrested. "I could not do it," she said, "for it was not our money; it belonged to the telephone company."

But they are safe and sound, and baby will someday tell his mother and father came through the great fire of April 18, 1906.

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The subscriptions noted below are actually cash:

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Mrs. T. J. Jones	25.00
Mrs. A. McLaughlin	1.00
Jno. M. B. Higbee (Denver)	10.00
H. Dinwoody Farm Co.	100.00
A. C. Hagen	100.00
Cash	5.00
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Otto Cassman (Weston, Idaho)	1.00
Jos. M. Green	1.00
Total	\$322.00
News employee	1.25
Previously reported	\$1,148.95
Total	\$1,472.20

Knights of Columbus \$ 500.00
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First Church of Christ—Salem 330.00
Heta 25.00
Young People First Congregational church 25.00
C. E. Kuntzway 5.00
Mr. Kuntzway 5.00
Elwood Bailey 10.00
Lafayette Holbrook 100.00
J. M. Marrott 25.00
J. W. Powers 25.00
Holman & Paine Lumber Co. 100.00
James Ivers 100.00
James D. Murdoch 100.00
Wilson-Sherman Co. 50.00
J. E. Frick 15.00
Bamberger & McMillan 50.00
Employees Greenwald Furniture company 25.00
Citizens of Bingham to Mayor Anderson 100.00
T. C. Wyche 25.00
E. F. Snyder, drandler No. 38, Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen lodge, Salt Lake 50.00

Dr. Loomis, dentist, over Walker's store

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