

Arrington Recalls Devastation Caused By San Francisco Earthquake Of 1906

By AGNES FITZHUGH SHAPTER

A blanket-wrapped Army recruit lay shivering on the ground in the chill mists of the early San Francisco dawn. Suddenly the very ground on which he lay began to shake; an eerie noise rose "like a whirlwind coming".

"I was ready to run, but I didn't know where to run to," says Lane Arrington, as he recounts his experiences in the days following the earthquake and fire which devastated San Francisco in 1906.

Less than four months after his enlistment, the 21-year-old Arrington's regiment was ordered down from Vancouver Barracks, Washington, to guard duty in Frisco after the quake. He arrived on the third day after the first tremendous earth shocks, while there were still faint tremors being felt throughout the area. "In fact," he says, "the ground kept on shaking for several more weeks—not something you enjoy getting used to."

Along with other Service units, Arrington's regiment was assigned to guard the stricken area. Sometimes he helped keep the hungry people in line as they waited at the "soup houses". "You know how it is—somebody tries to elbow in ahead of somebody else, and that's apt to start a free-for-all. We were ordered, though, to put any elderly or dizzy people up toward the front of the line. Some of those people had been without food for so long that they could barely stand up."

Arrington's sympathy with the sufferers once put him somewhat on the wrong side of duty. "I was on guard up at the Santa Fe warehouse," he relates. "Most of the food and other relief supplies came in at Pier 14 and were stored at the Santa Fe place, and keeping off looters was a round-the-clock job. This old, hungry-looking fellow came up and I could see he was eyeing a whole lot of those little picnic hams. I just handed him one of them and he took it and stuck it under his coat. Talk about getting away from here—he was gone!"

One of the most vivid of Sgt. Arrington's recollections is the clock on the ferry boat on which his unit crossed the Bay from Oakland to the Presidio. "I can still see that big clock," he muses, "with the hands stopped at just about 5:15. They told us the shock of that first big tremor stopped it." (The official time of the onset of the quake is recorded as 5:12 a.m.)

Arrington's unit remained in San



IN A REMINISCING MOOD Friday morning was Lane Arrington of Ratcliffe Cove as he described scenes of the great San Francisco earthquake of 1906 to Mountaineer feature writer Agnes Fitzhugh Shapter. Mr. Arrington was stationed in the Golden Gate city in 1906 with an Army unit. (Mountaineer Photo.)

Francisco until the middle of June, two months after the quake and fire. He remembers guarding the U. S. Sub-Treasury and the Mint. "That place was a sight. Walls still standing, but everything inside had just caved in and crashed down into the vaults. Just a big hole in the ground."

when Arrington arrived. "Looked like the whole city was burning, or anyway smoldering." (Official estimates are that four fifths of San Francisco was destroyed by the catastrophe.) He recalls the spectacular method finally used to stop the raging flames: "They made a fire line out of Van Ness Avenue—and that was a beautiful big

Blue Ridge Spelling Bee Set Nov. 20

The second annual Blue Ridge Conference spelling bee will be held at the Bethel School auditorium Tuesday, November 20, according to C. C. Poindexter, conference secretary.

The first conference last year was won by a Ben Lippen student.

Mr. Poindexter said that each conference school may enter three spellers and an alternate from grades 9-12. Eligibility rules are the same as those for athletic teams. Notification of entry in the contest and a list of the competitors must be sent to Mr. Poindexter at Bethel not later than Friday, November 16.

Word lists, pronouncers, and judges will be provided by Western Carolina College.

The following National Spelling Bee rules will be observed at the conference match:

1. In competition, contestants may pronounce words before spelling them, after spelling them, or not at all.

2. Proper names must be capitalized.

3. Having started to spell a word, a contestant shall be given no opportunity to change letters once pronounced. A speller may retrace, provided letters and their sequence are not changed in the retracing.

4. A contestant may request that a word be re-pronounced, defined or used in a sentence. The pronouncer shall grant this request until the officials agree that the

street with some fine homes along it. But the general ordered them to blow up a good stretch of it ahead of the fire, so there wouldn't be anything left to burn. That did the trick."

On the lighter side, Arrington chuckles over one experience. "We were passing one of those old saloons. The whole front was blown in and you never saw so many bottles in that window. So we reached through and helped ourselves to three or four quart bottles. But when we got them open, every one held not a thing but mineral water from the nearby Shasta Springs."

Mr. Arrington has returned twice to San Francisco since his emergency duty there. The first time was only four years later, in 1910; and the second, accompanied by his wife, in 1936. "You wouldn't know the town, it was so built up," he says.

Now retired after thirty years' service in the Army, M/Sgt. Arrington, his wife and son live in Ratcliffe Cove. A little gardening, a little yard work fill his time, with plenty left over to share his keen recollection of the impressions of a youngster face to face with one of the most spectacular catastrophes of the century.



CONSTRUCTION of the new Board of Education administrative and storage building behind the courthouse is now being pushed to completion. This is a view of the new structure, looking toward the courthouse. (Mountaineer Photo.)

word has been made reasonably clear to the contestant. Judges may disqualify any contestant who ignores a request to start spelling.

5. Obsolete spellings will be regarded as errors.

6. If, inadvertently, no definition of a homonym is given, the correct spelling of either word shall be accepted as correct. When a speller is given the definition of a homonym, he must spell the word defined.

7. When a speller fails to spell a word correctly, he or she must drop out of the contest, and another word shall be given to the next contestant in line.

8. The elimination procedure changes when the contestants are reduced to two. At that point, as soon as one contestant misspells a word, the other contestant immediately shall be given an opportunity to spell that same word. If the second contestant spells the word correctly, plus the next word on the pronouncer's list, then the second contestant shall be declared the champion.

9. If one of the last two spellers misses and the other, after correcting the error, misspells the new word submitted to him, then the misspelled new word shall be referred to the first speller for correction. If the first speller then succeeds in correcting the error and correctly spells the next word on the pronouncer's list, then he shall be declared champion.

10. If both misspell the same word, both shall continue in the

Balsam Area Community News

By LOUIS ENSLEY
Community Reporter

We regretted very deeply to hear of the death of L. P. Truesdale. He had been a summer visitor here for the past few years and had made many friends in the community. He left here for his home in Miami, Fla., and died en route

contest.

11. Webster's Unabridged Dictionary will serve as final authority for the spelling of words.

12. Any question relating to the spelling of a word must be referred to the judges immediately. No protest can be entertained after the contest is ended.

13. The judges are in complete control of the Bee. Their decision shall be final on all questions.

at a hotel in Columbia, S. C.

Edward Parson has had a successful season at the Balsam Lodge this year including several visitors from Cuba and a couple from Scotland.

S. T. Gentry and family have moved to Candler. Mr. Gentry is employed at the Highland Hospital in Asheville.

A household shower was given at the home of Mrs. Clarence Hoyle Saturday night in honor of her daughter, Mildred, the wife of Casper Thomason.

Among the tourists still arriving are Mr. and Mrs. R. B. Naylor of Lutz, Fla., and Mr. and Mrs. F. R. Floyd of Miami, Fla.

Mrs. Boyce McCall is in the Haywood County Hospital.

The leaves are beginning to

Toastmaster Club Elects Underwood

Charles Underwood of Lake Junaluska was elected at a recent meeting as president of the Waynesville Toastmasters Club for the next six months.

Also selected were: M. H. McAulay, executive vice president; C. R. Border, administrative vice president; John Thomas, secretary-treasurer, and Virgil Smith, sergeant-at-arms.

The next meeting of the Toastmaster's Club will be held at 7 p.m. Monday at Shepard's Restaurant.

Speakers will be: Homer Justice, "Democracy"; C. R. Border, "Bacteriology and the Microscope"; Eugene Harpe, "Vision and Highway Safety," and Ray Ellis, "What the Pearsall Plan Will Do."

On the evaluation panel will be: John Thomas, Jack Felmet, Charles Edwards, and J. Noland.

Mack Howey will be the time-keeper, M. H. McAulay will give the invocation, John Reeves will issue the instructions, and Bruce Alexander will act as toastmaster.

Ted Stackpole will be in charge of table topics, Charles Underwood will be table topics evaluator, Jack Dickerson will be grammarian, and Virgil Smith will be the master evaluator.

Hooked !!

Miss Marie Fish of Raleigh has announced her engagement to J. E. Bass. Both are employees of Carolina Power & Light Company. Miss Fish's boss is R. R. Pool. The head of Bass' department is A. J. Skaale (pronounced scale).

change color and several of the tourists are remaining late in the season just to see this beautiful sight.

H. Rhode of Sebring, Fla., and A. H. Codrington of Atlanta, Ga., take many pictures of the mountain scenery each year and show the slides to several audiences the following summer. Mr. Rhode also has hundreds of pictures of foreign countries which he shows. The majority of Mr. Codrington's pictures are flowers and still-life pictures.

Enjoy the winter season—You can tend the Brown Circulator in only fifteen minutes a day

Labels include: MASSIVE CAST IRON MAIN TOP, EASY FILL PORCELAIN HUMIDIFIER IN BACK, CONSTANT FLOW OF AIR BURNS ALL GASES AND ELIMINATES FLASHBACKS, HOLDS 3-5 BUCKETS OF COAL, BEAUTIFUL PORCELAIN CABINET WITH LOUVERS FROM TOP TO BOTTOM, BURNS FROM OUTER WALL INWARD... ELIMINATES CRUISING, CLINKERS, BRIDGING, LONG LIFE CAST IRON GRATES, ASH DOOR AND REGISTER PRECISION CONTROL FOR POSITIVE DRAFT CONTROL, A SEPARATE ANTI-FLY ASH BAFFLE KEEPS FLOORS AND HOME CLEAN, PULLS COLD AIR OFF THE FLOOR, SLOTTED FIRE BRICK LININGS, COAL CHUTE PREVENTS SPILLAGE OF COAL, LARGE SMOKELESS FEED DOOR WITH SWINGING SMOKE BAFFLE, BUILD A FIRE BUT ONCE A YEAR WITH A BROWN TROPIC-SUN.

CHOOSE EITHER THE 60 LB. CIRCULATOR AT ONLY \$119⁹⁵ OR THE LARGE 100 LB. CAPACITY CIRCULATOR AT ONLY \$149⁹⁵

— CONVENIENT TERMS CAN BE ARRANGED —

GARRETT FURNITURE Co.

Main Street Waynesville

SEZ WE AT RAY'S

Hi-ho! here's the COWBOY BOOT for your backyard desperado

For rough and tumble play... let him have fun wearing these authentically designed, sturdily-built cowboy boots by Step Master... rugged rubber sole takes lots of wear and tear!

Above Style — Sizes 6 to 3

OTHER BOYS' BOOTS

Sizes For Small and Large Boys

COMBAT - LACED - PULL - ONS

Needed School Styles

In Just About Everything

RAY'S SHOE DEPT.

Curtis DRUG STORE

Walgreen Agency DRUG STORE

IT'S TIME

TO STOCK UP YOUR MEDICINE CABINET NOW!

SAVE MONEY, KEEP YOUR HEALTH AND BEAT THOSE EXPENSIVE AND DANGEROUS WINTER COLDS NOW.

STOCK UP ON WINTER HEALTH HERE AND NOW!

A REGISTERED PHARMACIST IS ON DUTY AT ALL TIMES

CURTIS DRUG STORE

EXPERIENCE MAKES THE DIFFERENCE

MAIN STREET WAYNESVILLE