



21 PERSONS INJURED WHEN ENDWELL FIRE STATION BALCONY COLLAPSES

Weight of Young Men and Women Seeking Fresh Air Between Dances Causes Flooring to Give Way—Station Doors Save Those Underneath—Orchestra Continues Music, Helps Avert Panic—Mother's Heroic Action Saves Child But She Is Injured—Hancock Girl Most Seriously Hurt—Medical Department Rushes Aid to Scene of Disaster

Twenty-one were injured, several seriously, when the balcony of the Endwell fire station collapsed under the weight of a crowd of young men and women who were attending a dance in the building last night (July 11, 1922) at 9:55 o'clock.

Two huge doors in front of the station saved nearly 100 from death or serious injury when the balcony, upon which were about 40 men and women gave way. The balcony landed on the doors and remained there just long enough to permit those underneath to escape before it toppled off to the ground. The balcony was in front of the dance hall on the second floor of the fire station.

Eighteen men and women among those on the balcony when it crashed and two men and one woman under it were injured. The most seriously injured being Lillian Deltrick, 20 years old of Hancock, and Olin Porter, 21 years old, of No. 616 West Franklin street, West Endicott. Miss Deltrick is suffering from a possible concussion of the brain, while Porter is suffering from two broken ribs.

Others injured who were rushed to the Endicott Johnson Medical Hospital in Endicott were :

- Roy Reaves, 20 years old, No. 307 Arthur Avenue, Endicott - contusion and bruises.
- Miss Verio Cosier, 19 years old, No. 60 Washington Avenue, Endicott, slightly injured right leg, contusions and bruises.
- Mrs. Frances Chaffee, No. 307 West Franklin Street, contusions to both legs.
- George Balkos, 26 years old, No. 1000 North Street, Endicott, right hand severely cut.
- Mrs M. Moran, Page Street, West Endicott, injuries to the back or her head and neck.

Two minutes after the balcony collapsed a woman in Endwell asked the telephone operator to summon the E. J. ambulances in Endicott and Johnson City. The ambulances and six E. J. medical staff physicians rushed to the scene of the accident, followed immediately by Fire Chief James R. Eldridge, Johnson City, and Fire Chief Charles Huber of Endicott.

The most seriously injured were taken care of at the E. J. Medical Hospital in Endicott, while others were whisked away in automobiles to their homes, where their injuries were addressed by family physicians. The E. J. ambulance in Endicott made three hurried trips to the scene of the accident.

When the balcony collapsed and women were screaming with fright, Mrs. Moran, one of those injured, was standing under the balcony with her babe in her arms. Mrs. Moran struggled to get through the crowd under the balcony to escape almost certain death. But her efforts were in vain.

Mother Saves Child

As the balcony, after collapsing, rested for a few seconds on top of the two open doors underneath. Mrs Moran ran, fearing she could not escape, stretched out her arms in which the babe was nestling, beyond the outer edge of the threatened balcony where a man snatched the child from her arms as the balcony, with its great load of humanity, toppled off the top of the doors to the ground. A broken plank in the balcony on which a man came hurtling (sic) through the air, struck Mrs. Moran a glancing blow on the back of the head and neck, stunning her for a few minutes. Her heroic act, it is believed, saved the child from serious, if not fatal injury.

Miss Deltrick, believed to be the most seriously injured, was on the balcony when it gave way, being hurled to the ground when it struck the open doors. She struck on her head. An X-ray photograph will be taken of her injury. Miss Deltrick has been visiting Mr. and Mrs. Clayton Barnes, Endwell. She was unconscious when picked up by men and carried to the Barnes home just opposite the fire station, where she was examined by a physician and placed in the E. J. ambulance and rushed to the medical hospital in Endicott. She regained consciousness a half hour later.

More than a half hour after the accident occurred. Porter, with two broken ribs, walked out of the fire station, accompanied by friends and to the waiting E J ambulance a city block away . A n X-ray photograph will also be taken of his injuries .

Many Have Close Call

More than 800 men and women were in or outside of the fire station when the balcony collapsed. The crashing sound of splintered wood and the screams of women attracted hundreds of neighbors and passing motorists to the fire station. Five women and nine men slightly injured, were taken to their homes' in automobiles, one man being treated at the E J Medical Hospital in Johnson City, his name was not ascertained . He suffered several cuts on the head.

From Endicott and Johnson City hundreds of motorists rushed in the direction of the Endwell fire station, word having been flashed to both villages that several men and women had been killed and scores injured. The macadam roadway in front of the station was lined for nearly a mile and a half with automobiles, while more than 1,000 persons gathered about the fire station.

Praise was heard on every hand for the activity of the six E J medical physicians, who responded immediately after word of the accident was received at the E J hospitals in Endicott and Johnson City. They all arrived within 10 minutes after the accident occurred, examining those injured and having them placed in the Endicott E. J. Ambulance to be rushed to the hospital. While the physicians were having the injured rushed to the hospital, the orchestra continued playing, the dancers whirling about the floor to the surprise of the great throng gathered outside, but it surely averted a panic. That an investigation will be conducted into the cause of the accident was the belief prevalent late Tuesday night.

The balcony was supported by several short "props" extending from the side and front of the fire station to the floor of the balcony. According to those best acquainted with its structure, it was never meant to hold more than 25 persons at a time. After the dance started at 8 o'clock, a dance given for the benefit of the fire station, more than 75 men and women were on the balcony, compelled to stand there to obtain relief from the heat in dance hall.