

GLENWOOD DISASTER INQUEST

RESPONSIBILITY FOR ACCIDENT IS PLACED ON ANDERSON, DUE AND AUSTIN BY THE CORONER'S JURY.

Warrants Have Been Issued for the Men But They May Have Got- ten Away.

The investigation into the Glenwood disaster was continued yesterday evening.

Captain Brown, present at the time of the explosion, was the next witness called to the stand. He said that he was standing near the buffet when the fireworks were first lighted and that when the bomb exploded there was a piece of iron passed over his head and imbedded itself in the corner of the building. He made the remark when the fireworks started that those were "crazy fireworks," it being his opinion that there was something irregular in the handling of the same. He described the attendant scenes of confusion at the time of the explosion. Mr. Gibson, the affianced husband of Miss Clark, gave over to Brown, the piece of jagged iron, which had been pulled from her breast.

Charles Kerscher, manager of Glenwood park, told what he knew of the affair. He said that he had hired Mr. Rennie to operate the fireworks upon the latter's own recommendation. Mr. Rennie was unable to operate the fireworks, however, because of a broken arm which he received in the afternoon and so hired Anderson and the others to do the work for him. When asked if he thought any of the trio were drunk at the time they set off the fireworks, he said that if they were he certainly would have noticed it. It was his opinion that one-fourth, only, of the fireworks had been set off when the big explosion occurred. He said that he purchased the fireworks from the Schupe-Williams Candy Co., upon the solicitation of Daniel Schupe, now deceased. The mortar used to hold the bomb which did such fearful work of death was loaned by the manufacturers of the fireworks, to the park management, upon the understanding that it was to be returned after it was used. He stated that Mr. Williams of the firm gave them typewritten specifications for the handling of the fireworks. He admitted in reply to a question by the county attorney, that Rennie, who was to have handled the fireworks, was drunk in the afternoon and evening.

Charles Crismon testified that he was at Glenwood Park when the explosion occurred. He said that when the fireworks were first touched off, he was of the opinion they were not being handled right, as they seemed to be going off in all directions. A regular storm of sparks flew among the people, standing along the banks of the lagoon. He said that it seemed to him as if all the fireworks were going off at once. He said that he was in the saloon when a conversation occurred between a fellow, whom he thought to be one of the trio operating the fireworks and the bar tender. The fellow wanted a bottle of whiskey and the bartender said to him: "I don't care to be selling those people any more whiskey." Finally, however, he sold him seventy-five cents worth in a beer bottle and as the fellow went out the bartender made the remark: "Now you want to be careful and don't shoot us up, over there." It was Mr. Crismon's impression that the fellow who bought the whiskey was slightly intoxicated at the time.

Deputy Sheriff Joseph Belnap said that he and the jurors found the broken mortar, lying in the water and two boxes in the little safety house on the fireworks' pontoon. These articles were already in evidence.

Asel Farr, was also of the same opinion as many of the other witnesses, that there appeared to be a general explosion of the fireworks.

August Carlson, aged 43, stated that he was out to Glenwood with his family on the evening of the explosion. They took a position on the north bank of the lagoon about thirty minutes before the fireworks were started. He said that he saw Rennie and a lady in company with the parties, operating the fireworks, go out in the boat to the pontoon. Shortly before the fireworks were lighted the lady and Rennie left the platform and went to shore. In returning to the platform one of the trio took with him a bottle and later went back and got three more bottles, but what those bottles contained Carlson didn't know. When the fireworks were lighted he

said that they seemed to be going in all directions, some even shooting down into the water directly in front of him. After the explosion, he said that Mr. Jensen, who is employed at the Park, ran to the water's edge and yelled to the men on the pontoon: "Don't fire any more until you get further orders."

He also said that some one, whom he did not know ran by him, coming from the saloon, out to the water's edge and yelled to one of the men: "Stop that firing!" And the reply, "I can't. I've lost control," came back over the water. In spite of rigid questioning, the witness stuck to his statements.

Thomas B. Gibson, the affianced husband of Miss Clark, was standing at her side when she was struck in the breast by the piece of iron. The young lady sank to the ground with a moan. When he saw the piece of iron projecting out from her breast, he pulled it out. As he did so she turned to him with a despairing sob. "Oh, dear Tom, I'm killed." She died shortly after that.

Calvin Stewart stated that he was standing about two feet from Mr. Schupe when the explosion occurred. He said that the first fireworks exploded seemed to go off in regular order, then the others seemed to go off all at once, then there was a lull followed by the terrific explosion. When Mr. Schupe was struck, Mrs. Schupe turned to him and said: "My God, my husband is hurt. Run to the stand." By the time he got back the injured man was breathing his last.

John Dudman, a car checker, said that he was out to the Park on the evening of the Fourth. He entertained the opinion as did several of the others, that the actions of the fireworks were strange and erratic, as many of them were shot off among the crowd. Mr. Dudman's testimony was the conclusion of the evidence presented.

VERDICT.

Arthur Kuhn, Fred M. Nye and Frank Grant, the coroner's jury empanelled by Judge Howell, last night returned a verdict holding Kid Austin, Oliver Due and Oscar Anderson responsible for the explosion which killed Schupe and Miss Clark, at Glenwood, on July 4. Warrants have already been sworn out for the arrest of the men and are now in the hands of officers for service.

It is said that Austin and Due are the two men most responsible and they have left the city. The officers claim to know where they are and will attempt to apprehend them at once, but the premature publication of the verdict may have given the accused an opportunity to get away. The full text of the verdict is not known, as the court declined to give it out.