

EXPLOSIONS ROCK BIG NEW HOTEL

Flames Jump from the Pennsylvania and Wreck Six Buildings.

DYNAMO PLANT BLEW UP

Women and Children in Pennsylvania Railroad Station in a Panic.

A fire just after 9 o'clock last night, followed by an explosion in the Pennsylvania Hotel, being built at Thirty-third Street and Seventh Avenue, damaged six buildings on the opposite side of Thirty-third Street, and several women with children, who had just arrived from out of town at the Pennsylvania Railroad Station, fainted, but were revived in nearby drug stores.

Rumors that the Pennsylvania Station had been blown up brought the police reserves from four station houses, and soldiers rushed to the scene to restore order. Agents from the Department of Justice and Secret Service men were also sent to the building.

The fire, which started in the dynamo room of the hotel, was soon followed by the explosion, causing the fuses to blow out. A sudden gust of wind sent the flames across Thirty-third Street. The force of the explosion knocked out the windows in these buildings.

Patrick McGarry, 13 years old, who was in his father's saloon at 137 West Thirty-third Street, was knocked down by the force of the explosion. He quickly got on his feet and rushed to the street and sent in an alarm. A second and third soon followed. Battalion Chief "Smoky Joe" Martin came on the second alarm and Chief Kenlon and Fire Commissioner Drennan on the third.

The fire spread to Gimbel's store, which is in the rear of the hotel, and destroyed four auto trucks before it was extinguished.

McGarry's saloon is in a four-story building with a book store on the ground floor. The interior of the building was badly damaged and all of the windows were blown out.

At 135 West Thirty-third Street is

a two-story building with a saloon owned by Theis Brothers. All of the glassware and the windows were destroyed. At 137 is a four-story building, where P. J. McGarry has his saloon. Only part of the bar was left. At 139 is a barber's shop, owned by Peter Megory, which was also wrecked. At 141-143 is a stable of the Pennsylvania Trucking Company, and only one window withstood the force of the explosion. There were twenty-two horses in the stable at the time, but all were taken out by employes.

Following the explosion electric lights in the neighborhood went out, which added to the confusion. The police later ordered the electric light power shut off.

When the police reserves from the West Thirtieth Street Station arrived they had much difficulty in trying to quiet excited persons in the neighborhood who were hurrying out of their homes, frightened by the noise of the explosion.

E. M. Statler, who is to lease the hotel, said the explosion occurred in the dynamo room, but could not give any reason for it. He and Superintendent Smith of the building placed the damage to the hotel at between \$75,000 and \$100,000.