

FIRE IN THEATRE

Accident to Moving Picture Machine Causes Blaze in the Bon Ton.

The fact that there were less than a score of persons in the Bon Ton theatre on South Main street at 10:30 o'clock last evening, when a fire broke out, prevented a panic in the vaudeville house.

R. Whitehouse, the operator of the moving picture machine, was running off the last film, when there was a short circuit, the film caught fire and quickly blazed up. E. Cannon, the manager of the theatre, was just coming up from the cellar to the main floor through the orchestra entrance, and, seeing the blaze in the rear of the theatre, shouted "Fire!" A man who sat near the front arose and said, "Come forward, there is an exit near the stage."

J. Yost, the stage manager, rushed in front of the footlights from the wings and shouted:

"For God's sake, keep cool! There is no danger. Turn around and see what a little fire it is!"

The small audience, most of whom were sitting near the front, quietly left the playhouse through the emergency exit on the south side of the front, which opens onto the alley between Commercial and Main streets.

Whitehouse, the electrician, in his haste to get away from the fire, fell out of the gallery where the picture machine is erected, at the back of the theatre, above and between the two entrances. He was burned about the hands and wrist, and his hair, mustache and eyebrows were scorched. Yesterday was his first day at the Bon Ton, the former electrician, Elvin Myers, having left at noon for Portland.

A large crowd gathered in front of the theatre on the arrival of the fire department and one old man rushed wildly inside through the fire line, looking for his wife, who, he said, was attending the performance. When told that she had left the theatre safe and sound some minutes before he was a little pacified, but his fear was not altogether allayed because the "Mrs." was not in sight.

The management had just let a contract and work was to have commenced this morning on two more emergency exits on the north side of the auditorium.

The biograph, valued at \$125, and the film then in use, worth \$80, were both destroyed. They were insured. The theatre, of which J. H. Young of Ogden is the proprietor, was not damaged, and the performance will continue today as usual.