

Oct. 9, 2019

Ruins of sarge stacks from explosion, T&T Lumber Co. at Ricketts, 1910. Three boilers were involved in the explosion

TOURING SULLIVAN COUNTY'S MUSEUM . . . while dusting



In keeping with last week's article on the hazards of past industries, another article from the April 1910 issue of the Sullivan Review, goes like this:

"Barnhart had been to breakfast and was sitting on the porch of his boarding house when the explosion occurred. Arising from his chair he took a few steps forward, when through the porch roof a stone weighing over 100 pounds crashed striking him on the head and causing instant death.

"The rocks, bricks and debris from the mill fell like rain all round for considerable distance.

"The house at which Mr. Barnhart was killed was about 300 feet from the mill, and people in the house had a narrow escape from being killed by stones and bricks which came through the roof.

"The engineer on the locomotive operated by the lumber company had a close call from death by a flying brick. He was sitting in his cab, a short distance from the mill, and a half brick from the boiler house hurled by the bursting boiler passed through the cab missing his head less than a foot.

"There was no one at the mill at the time of the explosion except the fireman who escaped injury.

"Had the explosion occurred after seven o'clock the chances are that every one of the 75 employees would be killed or seriously injured.

"The big saw mill is a total wreck and some time will be required to get it in shape to operate again. The stave mill was not damaged.

"John Barnhart, who lost his life as a result of the explosion, was from Susquehanna, where he has a wife and number of children. He was about 43 years of age, and had been at Ricketts for some time.

"The body was shipped to Susquehanna Monday evening."

This lumber mill explosion took place at Rickett's Trexler & Turrell location in 1910.

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