

## PONTIAC BILL POSTER

### FATAL ACCIDENT.

MAY 13 1883  
**Wm. Thompson, a former Pontiacer, Killed by a Boiler Explosion in Detroit.**

From the Detroit Free Press we glean the following particulars of a boiler explosion which occurred in that city Monday, and in which Will.

Thompson, the engineer, who is well known in Pontiac and vicinity, was instantly killed:

At 2:50 o'clock yesterday afternoon a wavy motion, resembling that of an earthquake, alarmed the inhabitants for several blocks in the vicinity of the works of the new Wolverine Car Roofing and Paper Manufacturing Company, located on the southwest corner of Joseph Campau avenue and Guoin street. Those residing in the immediate vicinity, who rushed at once to the doors and windows, witnessed an appalling spectacle.

One hundred and fifty feet of roof attached to the main building on the Joseph Campau avenue side, was seen raised several feet in the air, while the same number of feet of brick wall, one story in height, was hurled with terrific force into the street and court. To add to the horror of the scene there arose from the debris shrieks and cries from men and women, who as yet did not know the extent of the disaster that had stolen so swiftly and unexpectedly upon them. Much sooner than it takes to relate it fire was communicated to the west wing of the mill, and the scene was, if possible, more greatly intensified. The fire department were promptly on hand, as was a large number of citizens in the immediate neighborhood. The employes escaped from

the wreck and other portions of the building, except two. The engineer, William Thompson, who was found standing in an upright position in front of the center boiler on a ladder, dead and terrible mangled, his left arm broken above the elbow, his left leg shattered about and above the ankle, and his body more or less crushed. The tubes attached to the boiler were cruelly plunged into his left side. Death was instantaneous. Lying above Thompson on top of boiler No. 3, face downward, with the tubes of the boiler pressing on his hip, was the almost lifeless body of the fireman, John Peter Frank. He was speedily extricated and removed to a grocery store on the opposite corner. Drs. Mulberon and Douglas, were speedily summoned, who, on examination, found one of his legs badly fractured, and his face, hands and chest terribly scalded. He suffered the keenest agony. His cries were pitiful. He had inhaled the escaping steam from the boiler to such an extent that the physicians pronounced his recovery impossible.

A man viewing the ruins, and who claimed to know what he was talking about, informed the reporter that when Engineer Thompson was found his left hand was so firmly clenched upon the insulator of the boiler that it was with difficulty it could be released. Even when released, the death grip was so strong that the muscles remained contracted.

The exploded boiler bears the appearance of being red hot at the time of the accident. The supposition of one veteran engineer is that the water was permitted to get too low. Another one of considerable experience holds that

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