

# JOHN W. MATSON, HAROLD KOILE FALL TO DEATH FROM SCAFFOLD

Guide Casting Being Lowered Into Intake Tower Breaks Loose

## SIX MISS DEATH

Six Companies Employees Miraculously Evade Fate of B. & W. Men

John W. Matson, 35, of Boulder City, and Harold Koile, 27, of Las Vegas, Babcock-Wilcox employees, were almost instantly killed this afternoon, when a guide casting being lowered from the top of the upper intake tower on the Nevada side, broke loose and plunged down the inside, miraculously missing six Six Companies workmen on a scaffold at the 895-foot level, but striking the scaffold on which the two unfortunate victims were working, 11 feet further down, sweeping them into the void whose bottom was the base of diversion tunnel number two at elevation 650.

The accident occurred at two o'clock and all of the details were not immediately obtainable.

The casting, scheduled to be installed as part of the control equipment at the base of the intake tower, was part of the equipment furnished by the government for the project, and weighed 1,400 pounds. It had been picked up by a crane which had hooked onto two large eye-bolts.

AS THE descent into the tower started, one of the eyebolts broke loose, supposedly due to a flaw in the material, and as soon as the increased strain was thrown onto the second bolt, it also broke, sending the big casting hurtling toward the bottom.

The intake tower opens directly into diversion tunnel number 2 on the Nevada side. Elevation at the bottom is 650 feet. At the 895-foot level, Six Companies workmen were completing the installation of the huge gate which will control the flow of the waters from the reservoir into the power houses. Six of these men were at work on a scaffold at that level.

ELEVEN FEET below, at elevation 884, on another scaffold, a crew of three Babcock-Wilcox  
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# John W. Matson

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workmen was engaged in closing up a manhole in the big pipe recently installed.

The casting hit the Six Companies scaffold, but the men managed to scramble to safety.

Matson and Koile were not so

fortunate, and were swept away as their companion, identity unknown, looked on in horror.

Whether the two men fell the full 250 feet to the bottom of the tunnel, or were crushed against the scaffolding on the way down, had not been determined as yet at press-time.

**BOTH BODIES** were badly mangled, and identification was not completed until nearly an

hour after they were recovered.

Matson is survived by his widow and a brother who is also employed on the dam project. Koile, who resided at 217 California street, Las Vegas, leaves a widow and three children.

Bodies were removed to the Park mortuary in Boulder City, and the inquest will be held tomorrow night at 7:30 by Judge Marion B. Earl.