

FAST MESSAGE



BE BRIEF

St. Paul, Minn., September 11, 1925.

T D McMahon - Glacier Park, Montana.

While in Glacier Park suggest you look over all Sun Camp buildings with view to improving inside and out. Bed rooms should be finished with rough boards and compo same as Many Glacier bedrooms, and about half rooms at Two Medicine should also be treated same way. Also look over both hotels and make recommendations as to painting and creosoting to preserve outside work work. Also inspect lobby, kitchen, dining room floors of two big hotels and Sun Camp. Will go over other details with you when you return to St. Paul.

Louis W Hill.

[9-11-25]

Mr. Hill:

~~Mr. Hill~~  
~~father~~

You spoke the other day  
about wiring Mr. Mahon, the architect,  
about Glacier Park building matters.  
He is still out there. Do you wish to  
wire him?

J. S. Votask 9/11/25.

**FAST MESSAGE**



**BE BRIEF**

St. Paul, Minn., September 11, 1925.

A A Azman - Glacier Park, Montana.

Someone reported you intended tearing down chalets on south side of lake at Sun Camp. Don't do this.

Louis W Hill.

15-1-I

DAY LETTER



BE BRIEF

64 WF D

GLACIER PARK SEPT 12

[1925]

L W HILL

STPAUL.

YOURS WITH WILL NOT DO ANYTHING WITH CHALET'S ON ISLAND AT SUN CAMP.

A A ASZMANN

1240 P

*[Handwritten signature: A.A. Aszmann]*

*[Handwritten initials: RB]*

STATE OF MONTANA, )  
                              : ss.  
County of Glacier. )

A. J. BINDER, being first duly sworn, deposes and says:

I am the Manager of the Many Glaciers Hotel in Glacier Park, Montana, and I have been so employed by the Glacier Park Company since 1921.

On August 10, 1925, I was at the Many Glaciers Hotel when Mr. Roe Emery, of the Transportation Company, advised me that Mr. Mather and party were going to the Glacier Park Hotel Company's saw-mill, which is about a quarter of a mile from the hotel. I was advised in regard to this about 2:30 in the afternoon, and then Mr. T. H. Reagan, a special agent, came to me and advised that he had been at the mill and that Mr. Stephen T. Mather, the Director of Parks, was at the mill and was going to blow it up. I proceeded with Mr. Reagan to the mill and met Mr. Mather there. The first thing I asked him was whether he knew what he was doing, and he replied, "Yes," adding, "and I am financially responsible for what I am doing," which latter remark he repeated at least a dozen times during the conversation which followed. I said to him, "If you want to blow up the building, why not do it in the Fall or the Spring of the year? Why wait till we have a house full of people?" and <sup>told him</sup> /that I thought it was nothing but a spectacular stunt, a grandstand play. Then he pointed to Mr. Reagan and said, "I ordered you off; get off." I said to Reagan, "You stay right there until I tell you to go." Then Mr. Mather ordered me to leave, and I told him that I had as much right there as he had and I would not leave. He then directed Assistant Park Superintendent Brooks to put us off, and Mr. Brooks took Mr. Reagan by the arm, and I told him the second time not to go until I told him to leave, and Reagan pushed Brooks away, and they made no further effort to put us off.

Brooks then went to the mill and I engaged in conversation



with Mr. Mather, and he said the Hotel Company was not going to put an addition to their buildings there either, pointing toward the hotel building, and I told him I did not even know they contemplated doing it. "Well," he said, "I was informed by some of the tourists that they were thinking about building." He said that he had notified the company to take down the buildings at the saw-mill. I asked him who he notified, and he said, "Didn't you hear my speech in the grille at the Many Glaciers Hotel last summer?" And I said, "That speech was to tourists." "Well," he said, "that's when I told you."

The speech to which he referred was delivered in the summer of 1924, at which time he asked that we give notice that he would make a speech, by putting a notice to that effect on the blackboard, and we did so. I did not hear the speech, but after the speech was delivered he asked me if I had heard his speech, and I told him No, that I was busy upstairs keeping people from making a noise going down the stairs, so that the audience could hear him. He then told me that in the speech he had referred to the saw-mill buildings and had said that he wondered whether Mr. L. W. Hill left construction buildings about the mansion which he built in St. Paul, and he said that this was his way of coming back against Mr. Hill for criticisms which he understood Mr. Hill had made against him in Spokane that Spring.

Going back to the conversation at the saw-mill, I said, "If you want to blow up a building, go over and look at your ranger station, which is across the lake, which looks worse than our saw-mill building ever did." Mr. Mather said, "Well, I haven't seen it," and Major Welch said, "It looks bad." And Mr. Mather then said, "You mean that people who live in glass houses shouldn't throw stones." and I said, "Positively." We then sat down on some cord-wood, and Mr. Mather would talk at times about the saw-mill and at times breaking in with other subjects, such as Crater Lake Park, and routing people in here from the east by boat to Duluth and out here on train, and about Major Welch interesting

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Jewish hiking parties in New York making the Park, and then his conversation drifted to the forest fire at Belton; he said he had been over there and men fighting the fire and women helping the men, and other subjects, drifting back every once in a while to the saw-mill. He appeared to me nervous and walked around from time to time.

During his conversations about the saw-mill he said that I would not be working for Mr. Hill very long, and that "If you stick by us you will be wearing diamonds."

Presently Assistant Superintendent Brooks passed by and Mather called to him, "Are you ready?" and Brooks replied, "Not quite." Then Mather said, "Let me know when you are ready because I want to touch them off myself." Finally Mr. Brooks advised him that he was ready, and Mather turned to me and said, "Do you want to touch one off?" And I said, "No, you are doing it." And he walked off, and he made the remark then, "If there is anybody going to jail, I am going to jail," and he went down and touched it off.

Reagan and I counted thirteen shots, and when we were looking it all over after it was done, I said to Mather, "Now look at the building! It looks worse than it ever did." He said, "That's all right, my men will tear it down in the morning, pile the lumber up nicely and salvage it." Then I said to him, "Why use dynamite? Why not come in and tear the building down the way it was?" And he never said a word; he wouldn't answer that.

A. J. Binder.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 12th day of September, 1925.

Dwalee Crowther  
Notary Public for the State of Montana;  
Residing at Great Falls, Montana.  
My Commission expires December 31, 1926.



STATE OF MONTANA, )  
                          : ss.  
County of Glacier.)

W. E. BOOMER, being first duly sworn, deposes and says:

I am employed as a driver on one of the automobiles for the Glacier Park Transportation Company in Glacier Park, and have been employed as such in Glacier Park during this season of 1925. I was regularly working driving the automobile busses on the East Side of the Park, but on the night of August 7th I took the train to Belton to drive busses on the roads on the West Side, this being a special assignment for me, and I worked there just one day, which was August 8th.

I went to work about eight o'clock in the morning of that day, and brought my 'bus to the depot, where my passengers were loaded, and then I started into the Park, stopping at the registry station. When I came to the registry station there were two cars there ahead of me; the first one was just getting ready to pull out. When I stopped my car I heard a man, who was Stephen T. Mather, call to a woman, who was in charge of the registration office, to stop the first car which was just ready to pull out, saying that he wanted to make a speech to them before they pulled out. He spoke to her in a very rough voice. Then this man, Stephen T. Mather, stepped up and talked to the people in the first car, talking to them about five to ten minutes. He spoke to the driver of the motor 'bus and told him to "kill" the engine, which the driver did, but, as it is a kind of car on which the engine does not "die" quickly, it did not die at once, and Mr. Mather, in a commanding way, again directed that the engine be killed. After he had finished talking to the people in the first car he then spoke to the people in the second car for about five or ten minutes, and then talked to the people in my car for about the same length of time. I did not hear all of his conversation to the people in the other car, but I judge from the drift of it

*W. E. B.*



that it was the same as what he said to the people in my car.

To the people in my car he said in substance, briefly, that he was Stephen T. Mather, Director of all the National Parks, and that he wanted to make a speech to them; that he had just arrived and had had a poor trip on the Great Northern in Dakota, criticising the service on the railroad in some way that I do not recall. He said that his daughter and Mr. Kraebel, the Superintendent of Glacier National Park, had been fighting fires, and that his daughter had been cooking for the men that were fighting the fires and that she had wanted to stay until the fires were out; that the Superintendent, Mr. Kraebel, was a very capable man to manage parks and that he had brought him from Hawaii; that Mr. Louis Hill thought that he (Mr. Hill) was running the Park and that this was a detriment to the Park, but that there was a company in Washington, D. C., called the National Park Service that was running the parks.

I thought that he had finished and started to crank the engine, so as not to delay my passengers, when he pointed his finger at me and said, "Don't crank that engine," and said a few words more to the people in the car, and then started to talk to the people in the fourth car as I was pulling out.

Some of the passengers in my coach commented on what he said; they did not directly criticize him or say that they were surprised at him, but they did say that they thought that a person in his position should talk about the parks, and about the park that they were to see, and not so much about where he got the superintendent, or what he and his family were doing, or about his trip out there.

I did not notice that he was particularly excited or that there was anything the matter with his manner, except that he was rough in his manner and he seemed anxious to impress people with who he was and wanted to show his authority.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 12th day of September, 1925  
*W. C. B. Baumer*  
NOTARY PUBLIC for the State of Montana  
Residing at Great Falls, Montana  
My Commission Expires December 31-1926  
*Dudley S. Crowther*

STATE OF MONTANA, )  
                              : s.s.  
County of Glacier. )

GEORGE W. NOFFSINGER, being first duly sworn, deposes and says:

I am the President of the Park Saddle Horse Company, with headquarters, during the tourist season, at Glacier Park, Montana.


I do not remember the date nor the day when Stephen T. Mather blew up the Glacier Park Hotel Company's saw-mill near the Many Glaciers Hotel of the Glacier Park Hotel Company, but I remember the occasion. I remember that the evening before I telephoned to him at Going-to-the-Sun Camp from Many Glaciers Hotel. I had previously met him at the entrance, and he mentioned nothing about his intention to blow up the saw-mill. I called him up at the "Sun" Camp because when Park Officials are in the Park, it is our custom to watch for them and see if anything can be done for them. I asked him in this phone conversation where he was going to be, and he told me that he would be at Many Glaciers the next day about three o'clock in the afternoon, and that for me to have six of my best men available for him, and I told him I would, but he did not tell me for what purpose he wanted them. Sometime between three and four o'clock the next afternoon he arrived at Many Glaciers. I was standing at the entrance of the hotel at the time and I saw him stop on the road some distance off; he did not come up to the hotel. He motioned for me to come. I went over to him and he told me to send my men up to the saw-mill, and I directed them to go with him. I went up there in my car, following the men, some five or ten minutes later. I had no idea what he was going to do. When I arrived there some of the men were stationed at points on the trails leading to the saw-mill, and he said to me that he was going to blow up the saw-mill and that he wanted my men stationed at the trails to keep people away



so that they would not get hurt. He said he did not want my men to know what was going on or to hear anything, that he was doing this himself. I told him that a thing like that couldn't very well be kept quiet and that what he was doing would certainly be known. He said that it certainly would be known, and that when he got to Glacier Park Hotel he was going to give it to the newspapers himself, mentioning the Great Falls Tribune.

When I arrived at the saw-mill, Special Agent T. H. Reagan was already there, and I heard Mr. Mather, in a commanding voice, order him to leave. Also while I was at the saw-mill I heard Mr. Mather direct Joe Harvell, a park ranger, to go out on the lake and keep boats away from the shore near the mill.

Mr. Mather then told me that he wished that I would go back to the hotel, where his daughter was, so as to see that no harm came to her. I then left for the hotel and some time thereafter I heard several blasts or reports from the direction of the mill.

  
*George W. Napping*

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 12th day of September, 1925.

*Dudley Crowther*  
Notary Public for the State of Montana;  
Residing at Great Falls, Montana.  
My Commission expires December 31, 1926.



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