

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

SIDNEY D. RICHARDSON, being first duly sworn, deposes and says:

I am employed in Glacier Park, Montana, as one of the guides of the Park Saddle Horse Company, and have been employed as such this season since the 4th of July, and have been employed similarly in Glacier Park during seven or eight seasons last past.

I do not remember the exact day of the week nor the exact date when the Glacier Park Hotel Company's saw-mill near the Many Glaciers Hotel is said to have been blown up, but I recall that it was in the early part of August of this year that I remember clearly the occasion of the explosions. I cannot keep track of the dates.

On that day in the morning the foreman of the Saddle Horse Company, Mr. Kegler, told me to report near the Many Glaciers Hotel with some other of the guides; he said Mr. Mather was coming and for us to stick around. Sometime after two o'clock in the afternoon we received instructions from Mr. Noffsinger to go to the saw-mill. We went on the road to the saw-mill, which is about a quarter to a half a mile from the hotel, and upon our arrival there Joe Harvell, one of the park rangers, came up and told us to take positions on the trails leading to the saw-mill, and I went out on the trail towards Lake Josephine and stood at the bridge about a quarter of a mile from the saw-mill, and at this point I heard the explosions. My instructions were to keep people from coming down that trail. I staid there about two hours.

Just as I was starting for my horse I saw Mr. Reagan, the Special Agent, come up, and Mr. Harvell said to him, in substance, "You are not wanted here; turn your horse around and ride away from here." Just then Mr. Mather, the head of the Parks, arrived and told Mr. Reagan to get off the grounds, that he was not wanted there, and I think that Tom (Reagan) said, "Yes, sir;" and Mr. Mather

then said, "Do you know who I am?" and Mr. Reagan said, "Yes, sir," and Mr. Mather then added, "I am Director of the Parks." I thought he was angry at the time; his hurried manner as he came up, and his voice and his language as he spoke indicated to me that he was in rather an angry mood. Mr. Reagan then left and I went to my position on the trail, as stated.

Sidney B. Richardson

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

Audrey Crowther

Notary Public for the State of Montana;  
Residing at Great Falls, Montana.  
My Commission expires December 26, 1926.

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

AUBREY L. CHAPLIN, being first duly sworn, deposes and says:

I am employed as a 'bus driver for the Glacier Park Transportation Company in Glacier Park, Montana, and have been employed as such throughout the season of 1925, since June 15th. I live at 14 West Lamme Street, Bozeman, Montana.

I was regularly employed on the roads on the east side of the Park, but on August 7th, I think that was the date, I was ordered to go to Belton to drive a bus on the roads in the Park from the western entrance, and I took the train that night and arrived at Belton that night. Mr. Stephen T. Mather, Director of Parks, arrived at Belton on the same train.

The next morning I went to work about eight o'clock, and loaded up my 'bus with passengers and had gotten as far as the ranger station, where the passengers going into the park are registered, and the lady in charge there came down to the 'busses to have the passengers sign up. I think driver Donahue was ahead of me, and that my 'bus was next to his, and I think that driver Jackson was the third in line and that Boomer was the fourth; I don't remember who the fifth driver was. There were five busses in line.

When I arrived at the registration station I stopped my engine and Mather came down and started to talk to the passengers, and I got out of the car and had taken the crank out of the boot so as to be ready to start the car when he would finish, and I was standing in front of the car with the crank in my hand, and he pointed a finger at me and said, very abruptly and harshly, "Don't you start that motor; I want to talk to these people a while," and then he mumbled something else, but I could not get it.

In the course of his talk to the passengers he said that he was the Director or Superintendent of all the National Parks and that he and Mr. Kraebel had been fighting fires all of the previous

A.L.C.



night. He praised Mr. Kraebel, the Superintendent, to the passengers and told them that he had gotten Mr. Kraebel from the Government Service in Hawaii, as near as I can recall. He criticised Mr. Hill and said that the Great Northern thought it was running the parks, but it wasn't, and said that "we", meaning himself and the superintendents under him, were running the parks.

When he finished, one of the passengers in the rear seat said, "Now that we have heard this talk, would you mind telling us who is giving this talk?" And he replied, "I am Stephen T. Mather, Director of National Parks," and the passengers gave him a little applause.

During the talk, while I was standing by the engine, I looked up at the passengers, and they had a funny look on their faces, so that I had to look the other way so that he would not see me smiling. One of the passengers, a lady, caught my eye, and moved her arm in a circle while he was talking, as if to indicate to crank up the car and as a suggestion to me to start up and go on. I did not think that she was joking, but I took it that she really meant for me to move on.

Afterwards I heard the passengers talking among themselves and they said they thought it was a strange thing for a Director of National Parks to make a speech bragging so much about himself. Some of them asked me whether he stopped all cars and made the same kind of speech to them.

As he talked to the passengers he was nervous, was fumbling the buttons on his coat, putting his hands in his pockets, starting to say something and then saying the same thing over again.

*Aubrey L. Chaplin*

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

*Dudley Crocker*

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. )

H. W. BECK, being first duly sworn, deposes and says:

My name is H. W. Beck, and I am employed as Manager of the Glacier Park Hotel of the Glacier Park Hotel Company, and have been such for the last nine years.

As regards Mr. Stephen T. Mather having blown up the Glacier Park Hotel Company's saw-mill at Many Glacier, the first that I knew of it was when Mr. Binder, the Manager of the Many Glacier Hotel, phoned down from Many Glacier to me at the Glacier Park Hotel, probably about half past five or six o'clock, <sup>on or about Aug 9<sup>th</sup> 1904.</sup> and told me what Mr. Mather had done, and of course I knew nothing further about it until Mr. Mather arrived here. Then he came in with his daughter and Major Welch, and the first that I saw of Mr. Mather was when I was standing in front of the desk here, and he came up and shook hands and said, "I suppose you know what I did up at Many Glacier Hotel?" I said, "I heard something of it, but I don't know exactly what it was." He said, "I heard Binder phoning down and telling you of it," and I said, "Well, he did phone down, but I didn't get much of an idea what it was." He says, "Well, I blew up the saw-mill;" he says, "I put thirteen sticks of dynamite under it and touched it off myself;" he says, "Kraebel knew nothing of it whatever;" and he said, "This is my answer to Louis Hill for the treatment which he gave Superintendent Kraebel at the Many Glacier Hotel last Spring." To my recollection those are the exact words. Nothing further was said; I said nothing to him in reply; there was nothing for me to say; it was outside of this place entirely. I said nothing to him because he has always been very pleasant to me personally, and I was going to gain nothing by it, and so I didn't say anything to him, regardless of what I thought or felt. I have known Mr. Mather ever since I have been here, I guess for the last ten years, and for the last couple of

years he hasn't had much to say to anyone here in a friendly way, outside of myself, and I didn't want to get into any controversy with him.

I saw him again after dinner. They had dinner here in the dining room of our hotel. It was his daughter's birthday, and they went into dinner late; it was possibly close to eight o'clock. And Mr. and Mrs. Emery knew of this daughter's birthday, and they had baked a cake which Mrs. Emery brought down here and had on their table at their dinner; and Mr. Mather thanked me for a very nice dinner, and he says, "Giving us a dinner of this kind and my blowing up one of your buildings seems like heaping coals on fire," meaning, of course, that he was treated nicely after what he had done. And that is all the conversation that I had with him.

*H. M. Beck.*

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 13th day of September, 1925.

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



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

THILLE DeFONTENAY, being first duly sworn, deposes and says:

I am employed by the Park Saddle Horse Company as guide and have been such during the season of 1925 continuously since the end of June, and have been similarly employed as guide in Glacier Park for the past eight years, with the exception of an absence of two years.

I don't remember just the day or week when the Glacier Park Hotel Company's saw-mill was blown up, but it was a month or more ago, but I remember the occasion clearly.

On that day I was around the Many Glacier Hotel and heard that Mr. G. W. Noffsinger was looking for me, and I ran across him outside the hotel sometime between two and three o'clock. He said to me, "Take your horse and go up towards the mill and stay there," and he says, "If anybody asks you anything, you don't know nothing about anything; you don't know." And I figured that others would be up there, and went up as I was told. When I arrived where the Piegan trail branches off I saw Jim Sanders; he asked me, "Where are you going?" I says, "I don't know; I have got orders to come up here;" and he says, "You might as well stay right here." I didn't know what was to take place; I didn't know what went on, except I heard the blasts, at least eight or nine, but I didn't count them.

Thille De Fontenay

Sunscribed and sworn to before me this 13th day of September, 1925.

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

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

PAUL C. DONOHUE, being first duly sworn, deposes and says:

I am employed by the Glacier Park Transportation Company at Belton, Montana, as a driver of one of the 'busses, regularly moving from Belton to the foot of Lake McDonald and to Lewis' Hotel and return; have been employed as such continuously during the season of 1925 since June 13th, and am in charge of the drivers between these points. I have been employed as such driver for seven years last past by the Transportation Company in Glacier Park. My permanent address is Glacier Park, Montana.

On August 8th, 1925, we were expecting a special train and so had sent for additional drivers; and on the arrival of the train, about 7:30 in the morning, each 'bus loaded its passengers and went to the registry station where the passengers would be registered. When I arrived at the registry station I stopped my car and the passengers were registered. A man came out, who I later learned was Stephen T. Mather. His first words were to me, "Shut off that engine." But my engine after being shut off doesn't stop right away, and in about three or four seconds he called again, "Stop that engine; didn't you hear me?" I would describe his manner by saying that you could tell what he meant and that he was exercising authority, and I heard him the first time pretty plain. He then turned to the passengers and began talking to them, and talked to them for about five minutes. He told them that he was Stephen T. Mather, Director of all the National Parks, and he then described his trip from the east, and described to them in some detail his trip on the Great Lakes. He said also that some people had the impression that the Great Northern Railway Company and the Transportation Company were running the parks, but that this was not so, that "we" are running the parks. I did not hear him make any further criticism



of the railway company or of the transportation company or of anybody connected with them. He then went on to speak of a fire in the park and how hard Superintendent Kraebel, his assistants and rangers, had been working on the fire.

While I was there another 'bus came up, and on that 'bus coming up he called to that driver to stop his engine, about the same way as he had called to me, and I pulled out.

Afterwards his actions were discussed with me by the drivers and we all thought that he was sore at something, and the drivers were irritated by the way, as they put it, that he had "balled them out." Some of them had not been talked to that way before and they didn't like it.

Paul C. Donohue

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 14th day of September, 1925.

Dwight 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 Flathead.)

T. H. RATCHFORD, being first duly sworn, deposes and says:

I have been employed as a driver by the Glacier Park Transportation Company, running a bus from Belton to the foot of the Lake and to Lewis' Hotel on Lake McDonald and return. I was so employed during the season of 1925 as an extra man; I suppose that I did not work altogether fourteen days.

I remember the occasion of Mr. Stephen T. Mather being at Belton. I do not remember the date, but it was at the time of the fire near Belton, and I do recall that it was about August 8th. I had loaded my passengers on the 'bus at the depot and had taken the 'bus to the registry station where the passengers are registered. When I arrived there, there was a car ahead of me, and I expected simply to stop the car and have the passengers registered and then move on; I did not expect to kill my engine. But when I arrived there a man that I now know was Mr. Stephen T. Mather called to me, and I did not hear what he said; I thought he was telling me to drive up closer to the other 'bus, and so I moved ahead two or three feet, and then he came over to me and said, "Shut off your engine; what's the matter with you? Why 'don't you use your head?" I did not reply to him, but shut off the engine. He then left my 'bus and talked to the passengers in the 'bus ahead. He spoke in a very harsh way to me, and I did not know who he was. I heard some of the passengers afterwards speak of it and say they did not like the way he had spoken to me, and two ladies in the front seat especially did not like it at all.

After he finished talking to the passengers in the 'bus ahead of me he started talking to the passengers in my bus. He

said that he was Stephen T. Mather and that he had charge of all of the National Parks, and impressed upon them that he was the head man of the parks. He talked about the fire near the foot of Lake McDonald and about the scenery in Glacier Park, and altogether spoke about five minutes. He did not receive any applause from the passengers, but I should judge from what I heard them saying that they liked his talk, except that they did not like the way he had spoken to me, and they spoke among themselves about his trying to leave with them the impression that he was the head man, but aside from this I would say they rather enjoyed his speaking to them.

I did not hear him criticize either the Great Northern Railway Company or the Transportation Company, or anybody connected with either of them.

I was talking with the other drivers afterwards and they did not like at all the way in which he had talked to them. One of them said he was going to speak to Mr. Mather about it, but I don't know whether he did or not.

My home address is Kalispell, Montana, and right now I am employed as baggageman for the Great Northern Railway Company and will continue to act as such until tomorrow, September 15th, when the baggageman is taken off here and I will return to Kalispell.

L. H. Ratchford.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 14th day of September, 1925.

Dudley Crocker

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





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