

Graphic descriptions of injuries exaggerated

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ews had multiple wounds, the most serious one being in the groin. Williams had lost an eye and the side of his head and Mattingly had five gaping wounds in his back.

But the *Telephone* reporter was unduly pessimistic in print about the prognosis for the other men and 14-year-old Allie Wickins. The reporter, for example, wrote that in the case of Edward Moberly there was a "terrible hole" just above his right eye, "from which brains were slowly oozing. Physicians did not probe for the missile, as death was only a question of time."

Since news gets around, perhaps

the *Telephone* can be excused for neglecting to update its readers about the conditions of the survivors until its May 31, 1881, edition. Quoting from the *Citizen*, the *Telephone* unabashedly informed its readers, "The piece of metal that entered Fred Mathews' leg at the time of the terrible dynamite explosion was taken out a few days ago by Dr. R.C. Harris, since which time Fred has been doing very well. Edward Moberly (whose brains were oozing) is considered to be improving, and there are great hopes of his ultimate recovery. Allie Wickins is able to sit up in bed a few minutes at a time this week, and Dr. Whitted is confident he will recover. William Freeman has commenced work again as also has William Matson. Abe Spires will soon go to work."