

Below is an article on a 4th of July event at Caldwell that was never forgotten by those in attendance. This source is believed to be the Progress, but this could not be verified due to the closing of libraries during this Corona-19 Virus quarantine.

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32 HURT AT FETE BY "FOURTH" BOMB

Falls Into Crowd and Explodes in Lap of Spectator

TWELVE SERIOUSLY INJURED; 1 MAY DIE Accident Occurs at Caldwell, N.J. While 10,000 Watch Fireworks Display

Twelve persons were seriously injured and twenty others hurt at the "sane and safe" Fourth of July fireworks celebration at Caldwell, N.J., arranged by the Borough Council. The celebration came to a disastrous end just after it started and was then called off. The festivity was held on the baseball grounds, and more than ten thousand people were present, including Mayor John Espy and all the Caldwell officials. The fifth bomb to be sent up, a "sunflower," failed to explode in the air. It descended and burst in the lap of Robert Standall. Standall was taken to the Mountainside Hospital, Montclair. His right leg, body and face were terribly torn. He probably will die. His wife and six-year-old daughter, sitting beside him, were also severely cut about the face and hands. Mable Gore, twelve years old, like Standall, a resident of Caldwell, received injuries to the face and eyes. The doctors feared she will lose the sight of both eyes. Marion Stryker, ten, and her brother Robert, of Tulleytown, Penn., with their grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. E.M. Jackson, of Caldwell, were injured. The boy may lose his right arm. Mrs. Frank Gregory, of Verona, had her clothing set afire. The blaze was put out by bystanders, but she was badly burned. Mrs. Abraham Cameron, of Cedar Grove, and her son William, eighteen, were cut about the face and body. Lillian Siekierskie, of Fairfield, also had her face and eyes injured. In the excitement which followed the accident many of the slightly hurt were carried away to their homes and the police did not get their names. The contractor in charge of the fireworks display was John Strazza, of Bloomfield. He could not account for the bomb failing to explode properly. The fuse was seen to be burning as it went up. When the fuse flickered out nothing could be seen in the darkness and no one suspected there was the least danger of the bomb descending among the crowd. It came back, however, so quickly that there had not been time to send up the next bomb.

This Caldwell fireworks disaster was also reported by at least one NY newspaper.

**The New York Times
5 July 1914**

12 INJURED BY BOMB.

Missile Falls in Crowd During Caldwell, N. J. Celebration.
Special to The New York Times.

CALDWELL, N. J., July 4.—Twelve persons were seriously injured and fifteen received minor injuries when a "sunflower bomb" exploded in the lap of Robert Bandall of Myrtle Avenue and brought the celebration to an abrupt end in town tonight.

The Caldwell Borough Council was giving a fireworks display at the baseball grounds, and persons attended from all the nearby towns. It was estimated that there were 10,000 on the grounds. The display started with several set pieces, and four bombs had been sent up. The fifth a "sunflower bomb," was shot into the air but did not burst until it came down. It struck Bandall just as it exploded. Every one sitting near him was injured.

Bandall, his wife and six-year-old daughter were taken to the Mountainside Hospital at Montclair; his right leg was shattered and face and arms torn. He may lose his sight. His wife and daughter both have cuts and burns will require treatment, including skin grafting.

Among the others injured were Mabel Gore, 12 years old, of Washburn Place, Caldwell, who was burned about the face and body and will lose her sight; Mrs. Frank Gregor of Bloomfield Avenue, Verona, was burned about the body, and is also in the hospital; Marian Stryker and Robert Stryker, 12, of Tulleytown, Penn., who are visiting their grandparents, and Mrs. E. M. Jackson of Caldwell, were cut and burned on the face and hands.

The boy's right arm was so shattered that it was necessary to amputate it. Mrs. Abram Cameron of Pompton Avenue, Cedar Grove, was cut on the body and her son, William, 18 years old, sustained similar injuries. Mrs. Lillian of Fairfield, N. J., was cut and burned on the face, hands, and neck.

The police say that fifteen or twenty other persons were injured more or less seriously and were taken to their homes by friends.