

# JUMPED THROUGH FEAR

## Women Hurt on Chenery Street.

### Passengers on an Electric Car.

#### Alarmed at the Thought of Collision They Make a Wild Leap.

Four frightened women jumped from a moving San Mateo electric car on Chenery street, near Thirtieth, yesterday noon and miraculously escaped with injuries which were for the most part slight. That other women passengers on the car did not take flying leaps was due to the presence of mind of men, who forced the alarmed women to keep their seats.

The accident happened in a peculiar way. Car 21, in charge of Motorman Lucas, was on its way in town from Cypress Lawn Cemetery with a party of sixteen or eighteen who were returning from the interment of the deceased wife of J. Mello, a conductor on the road. The car was a regular "double-ender," and was escorting the heavy funeral car, which has been remodeled and provided with independent motors. Both cars were running on the time for car 21, which preceded the funeral car on the city-bound trip.

They had moved along within fair distance of each other until the top of the heavy grade at Chenery and Randall streets was reached. Car 21 stopped at the latter street to allow a passenger to alight and started down the grade for Thirtieth street. It had not proceeded far when the big funeral car loomed up at the top of the hill. It was moving along fairly well when one of the women in the forward car suddenly jumped off. Motorman Lucas immediately slowed up and stopped, but the conductor, who saw the second car on the grade, yelled to Lucas to go ahead in order to keep clear of a possible collision. The excitement caused by the leap of the passenger and the near approach of the heavy car from behind so worked up the nervous fears of the other women passengers that their first impulse was to jump. Three did leap, but the car was not running so rapidly as it had been and they were not thrown so heavily to the ground as might have been the case had the car been under full headway.

Electrician Sutcliff was in charge of the funeral car. He saw the woman jump just as his car got over the brow of the hill. He reversed the current and jammed down the brakes. The car was stopped before it reached the car ahead. Aboard the funeral car were a number of passengers who had become excited, but they made no attempt to leave the car, which was under perfect control.

The injured women were given attention immediately, and it was found that none had been seriously hurt except Mrs. Henry Horstman, who resides at 7 Thirtieth street. She received several severe bruises and possible internal injuries. The others were Mrs. Laport of 255 California avenue, whose face was bruised and right ankle severely sprained; Mrs. Welch, living on Mission street near Thirtieth, and Mrs. Cotler of 36 California avenue. The last named escaped with slight though painful bruises and lacerations.

St. Luke's Hospital was notified of the accident, and Superintendent Dozier and Dr. Burk went to the scene. The injured were taken to near-by residences, where they were given treatment. Mrs. Horstman and Mrs. Welch were removed to their homes later.

A daughter of Mrs. Horstman, who was on the car from which her mother leaped, was interviewed, but could give little information regarding the occurrence. She said: "I cannot say how it happened. We were coming down the hill on Chenery street and saw the other car behind us. It seemed to be getting closer and closer, when we thought there would be a collision and some of the ladies jumped."

There were a number of motormen and conductors who had been to the cemetery on car 21, and they prevented several other passengers, who had become hysterical at the sight of the women who had jumped from the car, from likewise hazarding their lives.

The Chenery-street grade, where the accident occurred, was the scene of a wreck of an electric car some months ago in which many were seriously injured. Those who were hurt yesterday were all residents of the immediate neighborhood and doubtless had in mind the former accident. That there was no danger of a collision is the statement of those who witnessed the affair and were on the scene shortly after the injured were taken in hand.