PUEBLOAN THOUGHT TO BE ONE OF VICTIMS OF COLUMBIA DISASTER

But little doubt now remains that the fearful steamboat collision that occurred off the coast of California Saturday, claimed a well-known Pueblo citizen, W. L. Merrill, who resided in the Anthony Block on B street, as a victim. Merrill was employed as an engineer on the ill fated ship, San Pedro, and the dispatch printed in The Chieftain yesterday morning bore the name of C. W. Merrill as one of the identified dead. It is likely that the initials were twisted in transmission and Mrs. Merrill, who is still here is nearly prostrated with grief and last evening wired Merrill's brother at San Pedro for further particulars. No reply has been received at a late hour.

Merrill who left Pueblo more than one year ago for the coast in search of work wrote his wife a postal July 18 from Avola, Cal., in which he stated that he had gone back to the steamship company upon the promise of more pay and expected to be a commissioned officer on the ship. Her first thought was of her husband when she first read of the terrible calamity and her worst hopes were realized yesterday morning when the revised list of dead contained the name of Merrill.

Merrill left Pueblo one year ago last April when he went to Los Angeles. He was employed in an ice house there as an engineer for some time but later took a position with the steamship company on the boat that plied between San Francisco and Portland.

He resigned later and was with his brother in San Pedro until shortly before the accident when he returned to the sea where he undoubtedly met his death.

EXCITING CHASE ENDS