



**Three Die in Dormitory Fire**—Wooden men's dormitory at the University of Oklahoma in Norman, Okla., lies in smoldering ruins after a flash fire whipped through the two-story building, burning it to the ground within minutes. At least three of the 349 residents of the building are known dead. More than a score were injured as they escaped the roaring inferno. (AP Wirephoto)

**Eyewitness Tells of Dormitory Fire in Which Three Died**

(Editor's Note: Logan L. Riggs, 24-year-old University of Oklahoma journalism junior, had his breakfast in bed Saturday morning for the first time since he came home from the war. The Monroe, Okla., youth was among the students injured in the dormitory fire that morning. Following is his own account of the fire.)

By LOGAN L. RIGGS

Norman, Okla., Dec. 5 (AP)—The first thing I knew about the fire Saturday morning was my suite mate hollering, "Fire! Fire! Let's get the hell out."

By the time I sat up in bed, he had the window open and was getting ready to jump. For some reason I decided to try to go out through the hallway instead of using the window.

My room on the second floor of the bachelor officers' quarters had two doors. I tried to open one of them.

I don't know whether it was the bathroom door or the door into the hall. I had grabbed my pants off the door handle, and since I had left them hanging on the bathroom door knob I guess I was trying to get through the bathroom.

Anyway, it was just like opening a furnace door. The heat was terrific.

It didn't know it at the time, but I guess that's when I got burned. I dropped my pants and ran back to the window. There was a ledge running alongside the window and my idea was that this could be used as a fire escape.

I didn't think about it at the time. I just jumped to the ground. Where I hit was just a couple of rooms out from the central wing of the building and the two wings extending out from either side of it were both on fire.

I could see the flames coming out of some of the windows and I could see them brightly in all the others. That fire was spreading like it was gasoline. In all my time overseas with the signal corps, I didn't see anything like it.

I ran on down between the wings into the open. That's where the other guys were standing around. They all seemed pretty calm. They kept talking about how much they'd lost in the fire. I guess it was 15 minutes after that before the firemen got there.

I found my roommate, Cy Kees of Spokane, Wash. The boys down in the fifth wing—that's the west end of the building—had more time to get out. I found a blanket in a pile of clothes and stuff which one of them had laid on the ground.

When I put that raw blanket over my neck and back I realized I'd been burned, but the

doctors say it isn't too serious. Considering how horrible it all was, I feel pretty good. I lost everything but one slightly used pair of underwear shorts. I don't believe I saw more than two of the boys in pajamas. I guess we put on quite an underwear show.

**Helen Hayes Named Polio Board Head**

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"This is a critical year in the history of the fight against infantile paralysis," O'Connor said regarding the 1950 drive.

"On the one hand, scientific research now yields tangible hope for solution to this disease within our lifetime, and, on the other, thousands more polio patients than at any previous time in our history, depend upon continued financial assistance from the National Foundation for their chance to make the best possible recovery from polio."

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**Hunt for Bodies In Dorm Fire**

Norman, Okla., Dec. 5 (AP)—Little white sticks marked the bodies, Saturday.

Not crosses—just sticks. Death-marks to show where the casualties lay in the ruins of what had been the University of Oklahoma's "BOQ No. 1."

It was hours after the fire that leveled all five wings of the dorm, but the work of looking for the dead was only beginning.

About 100 men, their faces as grim as their job, poked through the wreckage with cottonseed forks. They were a silent crew, advancing slowly behind hose-bearing firemen who cleared the way like minesweepers. Those embers still had to be cooled before they could be searched.

Three charred bodies were found in the first few minutes. Each body was marked with a stick. And besides each was placed a small aluminum pan, to collect jewelry and other effects that hadn't burned.

Students gathered around the fringe of the ruins. Some were just curious; others were attracted by the fascination of fear—that a friend or a roommate might be found in the embers.

Searching wasn't easy. All around were twisted remains of the building—bedsprings coiling grotesquely as if by some surrealist; bathroom fixtures that always seem to survive tragedies, and plumbing pipes still too hot to touch.

**Kind of Shoes May Rate as A Cause of Cancer Increase**

By HOWARD W. BLAKESLEE

New York, Dec. 5 (AP)—The kind of shoes people wear may be one cause of the increase in cancer, says Dr. S. J. Wikler, Baltimore chiropodist.

He says the widespread increase in cancer is not more than 80 years old, and that it coincides with the start of manufacture of modern shoes.

Shoes, he says, render toes puny and helpless. This in turn atrophies a set of muscles connected with toe action down to one-third or less their normal size. Modern heels are elevated, throwing the weight forward, and this, he says, is unnatural.

Dr. Wikler says 80 percent of Americans have foot disorders. Feet twist outward. Thigh bones do likewise. So the pelvis dips downward a bit, chests tend to flatten, and lungs, hearts and stomachs and abdominal organs are pulled down a little.

In fact, he says, there is hardly a square inch of your body

that remains unaffected from faulty feet.

The result is added stresses, and these in turn may cause irritation of tissues. Irritation, long continued, is one of the accepted causes of cancer.

Dr. Wikler gives cancer death rates to show that they are higher wherever people wear shoes most.

"The cancer death rate," he says, "in southern states like South Carolina is 57 per 100,000 while in Massachusetts it zooms to 188 per 100,000. This difference can be explained by the fact that southern children

go barefooted a large part of the year and so develop strong, sturdy feet that even wearing modern shoes as adults cannot distort to the extent of northern experience.

"Switzerland has the highest rate at 176 per 100,000. The Swiss shoe industry is highly organized and they make a shoe which gives the foot a great deal of support and consequently causes a great deal of damage and deterioration.

"The United States has a cancer death rate of 120.2 per 100,000 while Hawaii has 67.2. The cancer rate in Hawaii is as high as it is only because American shoes are used when Hawaiian children reach their middle teens and adult life."

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**Educators Asked To Explain Doings**

Portland, Ore., Dec. 5 (AP)—Frank Schiro, publisher of the La Grande Evening Observer and chairman of the legislative interim committee to study the state educational system, believes it is the educator's responsibility to inform the public as to what is going on in education.

Schiro presented his views at a meeting of the Oregon Education association's representative council here. Schiro also explained the work of the interim committee and discussed the report the committee will make to the state board of education.

**Tele-fun**  
 by Warren Goodrich



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