

Fire destroys 32-year-old Allen Grade School; loss estimated at nearly half million dollars

LBJ pledges support to world group

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y. (UPI) — President Johnson pledged full support to the United Nations today and offered a new year vow to make world peace, civil rights and human welfare "not an illusion but a reality."

Delegates of 113 nations stood as the President entered to begin his first U.N. speech as Chief Executive. They stood again and applauded for 42 seconds when he ended his 15-minute address with a pledge that:

"Any man and any nation that seeks peace—and hates war—and is willing to fight the good fight against hunger and disease and ignorance and misery—will find the United States of America by their side, willing to walk with them every step of the way."

The delegates interrupted the President only once, applauding for 12 seconds when he said:

"And more than ever we support the United Nations as the best instrument yet devised to promote the peace of the world and the well being of mankind."

Only Communist Albania and Cuba did not join in the applause, although their delegates participated in the two standing tributes to the President.

The General Assembly Hall was packed, even though the public was barred under security restrictions even more severe than those in force when Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev and a company of world leaders attended the 1960 session here.

The President stood alone on the platform behind the black marble dais after he was accompanied there by the U. N. chief of protocol.

Assembly President Carlos Sosa Rodriguez of Venezuela presented him, saying simply: "On behalf of the General Assembly I have the honor to welcome his excellency, Mr. Lyndon B. Johnson, President of the United States of America, and to invite him to be good enough to address the General Assembly."

After the speech, Sosa thanked the President and asked delegates to remain in their seats while he escorted Johnson from the hall.

Johnson warmly gave Sosa and Secretary General Thant his familiar hand-and-elbow Texas handshake as they went with him to the nearby Indonesian lounge where he greeted chairmen of the 113 U.N. delegates and their permanent representatives here.

DOW JONES AVERAGES
By United Press International
Dow Jones final stock averages: 30 industrials 766.38, up 4.74; 20 railroads 178.79, up 0.37; 15 utilities 138.22, off 0.09, and 65 stocks 268.72, up 1.05.

Window here is shattered by sonic boom

Bend was rattled by a sharp blast this morning at 9:30 that shattered an 8 by 12 foot plate glass window in the Corner Snack, at the corner of Franklin and Bond.

A sonic boom from a high-flying jet apparently was the cause of the sharp tremor that brought many persons out of their homes and offices to see what happened. The trail of a jet was sighted.

Because of the danger resulting from the broken glass, the Corner Snack was temporarily closed, to permit of window repair.

Two unidentified patrons were seated next to the window when it shattered. They were not injured.

Mrs. James Riley is operator of the Corner Snack. She said the restaurant would be reopened just as soon as the window is replaced.

Roseburg youth dies in plunge near Everest

ROSEBURG (UPI)—A young Roseburg adventurer was killed Dec. 4 in a fall on the approaches to Mt. Everest, his parents were informed today.

The victim was Dave Wyatt, 20, a student at the University of Chicago, who left Oregon last September with two companions on a trip to Nepal.

The parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ed Wyatt, received a telegram this morning from Wyatt's two young companions, Steve McCarthy and Gary Payne, both 20, telling them of the tragedy.

In Washington, the State Department said the U.S. Embassy at Katmandu, Nepal, reported the youth was killed in the Tesi Lapacha pass area. McCarthy and Payne, who reached Katmandu Monday night, said the body had been buried at the site of the fall.

The State Department had no further details.

Wyatt was a biology major at the University of Chicago. McCarthy was born in Seattle but attended schools in Roseburg. He and Payne are Reed College students in Portland.

The youths planned to study customs in Nepal and to collect specimens for the Smithsonian Institution and the Chicago Museum of Natural History.

They received money and equipment for the trip from Oregon firms and also planned to collect beetles and other scientific specimens.

SALT TRUCK CRASHES
YORK, England (UPI) — A truck loaded with salt for icy roads skidded and crashed on an icy road Monday.



DESTRUCTION IN THE NIGHT — Fire levels Bend's Allen School, which was the last word in one-story frame construction when it was built in 1931. Wall of flames is bizarre spectacle in the early morning hours, as structure becomes roaring inferno. Loss runs to half million dollars. East Side residents watched as building crumbled to ruins.



THE MORNING AFTER—Susan Marsh, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ronel Marsh, Boyd Acres, holds charred books as she and Officer Myron Smith look over rubble in spot that was Allen School library. Susan is first grader at school. Fire destroyed not only building and furnishings, but many musical instruments owned individually by students.

Firemen go all-out in blaze effort

Initial efforts to control the Allen School fire today required use of every piece of Bend's fire-fighting equipment excepting one. A standby engine normally stationed at the Brooks-Scanlon, Inc., lumber mill was called to the fire station and remained there to answer possible other calls, Fire Chief Vernon Carlson said today.

All 16 of the fire department's full-time men were on the job, Carlson said, with two of them remaining at the fire station. A total of 28 members of Bend's Volunteer Fire Department assisted in fighting the big blaze.

It was not necessary to call in backup equipment from neighboring communities, Carlson said, although standby arrangements are in effect when additional equipment is needed.

One fireman was injured in the blaze. Dick Walter suffered a deep burn on one wrist. He was treated as an out-patient at St. Charles Memorial Hospital, and released. Walter and two other men were on the roof, attempting to control the spread of the fire, when the roof of the center of the building caved in. Neither of the other two were injured.

Other firemen inside the building less than a minute before the cave-in were ordered outside by Chief Carlson. They narrowly escaped injury.

"The fire had too much headway to stop before we got there," Carlson said. Fire had spread through the attic by the time men and equipment arrived. Type of construction (the building was built of wood) had little to do with the loss, he said, since original plans only called for brick facing over frame construction.

"Unless you can get inside a building and on top of it, there is not much you can do," Carlson said. "The men were driven off and out, and all we could do was to make sure nothing else burned."

What now?

Proposals eyed for continuing classes for Allen youngsters

Various proposals for continuation of school for those students burned out in the Allen school fire last night were under consideration today by administrators on the Bend school district staff. A meeting of the district's board, previously scheduled for tomorrow night, will make decisions as further information becomes available.

Superintendent R. E. Jewell said early today he doubted there would be any school for Allen youngsters until after the Christmas holidays. These students, 49 of them, will be the only ones immediately affected by the fire.

After the Christmas vacation fifth and sixth graders will go to Kenwood and/or the new Bear Creek school, probably on a double-shift basis with students now at those schools, he said. Double-shifting is necessary because of the need to share library facilities and gymnasiums, both needed in those grades.

Some primary students will use two rooms still standing at Allen. It will be necessary to furnish heat, water, and power to those rooms, in a small building separate from the structure which burned. They had been connected to central facilities at Allen. Others will be spread throughout the system.

The big question ahead for school administrators and the board of trustees is what to do next. A total of 13 classrooms, office space, a library and a gymnasium are needed to replace space lost last night.

One immediate possibility is the enlargement of the Bear Creek school. Plans called for development of 16 rooms and a gymnasium on the new site. Eight rooms were completed at the start of this school year, at

a cost of \$240,000. The district's architect already has final working drawings on hand for the gymnasium, and existing plans for the first eight rooms could be used to complete development in plenty of time for the start of school next year, it is believed.

The question then remaining, Jewell said today, is where to build the remaining rooms necessary. The Allen site has been criticized for some time on two grounds. One, the area is smaller than the state recommends. Two, it is right alongside the major north-south highway through Bend. The highway has created a noise problem for the school. The school has created a traffic problem for the highway.

There has been considerable interest expressed in the site for commercial development. If the interest still exists, and it should be heightened now that the site has become undeveloped property, the district may be offered a chance to sell it, real estate men said today.

If the site is sold, district administrators have long felt a better site for a new school would be on property now owned by the state on the northwest side of Pilot Butte. It may be that a new school would be constructed there.

The district carried insurance sufficient to replace the facilities lost in last night's fire, it is believed. Final determination cannot be made until the loss is adjusted, and until bids can be obtained for replacement of the burned-out building.

Wood vs. brick controversy recalled by school blaze

Centering around construction of the Allen Grade School in 1930-31 was a controversy which interested the entire city.

It was a controversy concerning wood vs. brick. Original plan was to construct a building that would be partly of brick and partly of wood. That proposal came in depression days when lumber production in the local mills was at a low ebb. Many mill workers were without jobs.

"Use wood" was the cry. For this reason, the plan to use brick and stone in building the Allen school aroused considerable resentment. Actually, the original plan did call for the use of wood framing, floors, and interior.

Eventually, the original plan was scrapped, and architects were called on to design a modern structure, "entirely of ponderosa pine," and architecturally fitting into the landscape.

The result was the fine Allen School, acclaimed one of the best looking school structures in the state in its day.

Recognizing the possible fire hazard, plans for the building called for many openings — 130 windows and 80 doors.

In constructing the building, 400,000 board feet of lumber was used. Also used were five tons of nails, and 200,000 shingles. Dimensions of the building were 152 by 330 feet — a long building facing East Third Street.

It was a 14 room structure, with auditorium and gymnasium.

Jewell says building was fully covered

By Phil F. Brogan
Bulletin Staff Writer

Bend's 32-year-old Allen Grade School on East Third Street, erected in 1930-31 at a cost of around \$90,000, was destroyed today by an early morning fire, with the loss estimated at close to half a million dollars.

Superintendent of Schools R.E. Jewell said the building was fully insured.

The fire was one of the most costly in Bend's history — a history that covers the loss of another school building, Central, on a frosty morning on February 10, 1937, when it was being used as a temporary courthouse.

A total of 449 children attending classes in 14 different rooms in the 330-foot long building facing East Third, were out of school today, result of the fire. They may continue the recess until after the Christmas holidays.

Fire Source Unknown
The fire may not have originated in the furnace room, as first believed, investigating officers said shortly before noon today. There was no evidence that the furnace doors had blown open. Several "blow-backs" were reported in the furnace room.

The Bend Fire Department is requesting an inspection by Walter Stichney, state fire marshal.

The fire was first spotted at 2:55 a.m. by Herbert Maker, Bend police officer, who, accompanied by Officer Frank Stenkamp, was driving south over East Third Street. Maker was coming over the north overpass at the time, and radioed his office. An immediate call was radioed to the fire department and firemen were quickly on the scene.

Maker had passed the Allen school only five minutes before discovering the fire, when he was headed north.

The fire spread quickly into the gymnasium attic and the auditorium, then through the ridge roof. Firemen worked to open both ends of the attic, to "roll the fire back," but the blaze was too far under way and too hot. A collapse of the attic followed.

Officer Maker spotted fire on early-morning round

By Gerald Drapeau
Bulletin Staff Writer

The fire which consumed Allen School this morning was first spotted by Police Officer Herb Maker at 2:56, while he and Officer Frank Stenkamp were on routine patrol.

Driving south on E. Third Street, Maker spotted a column of billowing smoke and alerted the Fire Department by radio. He called again when he was close enough to the fire to know its location.

"It took only three minutes or less from the time I called, to the time the first engines arrived," Maker said. "There wasn't a soul on the streets, and surprisingly enough, not many people showed up behind the firemen."

Maker said there was no traffic problem whatever. Cars of volunteer firemen which streamed into the area found no obstruction of curious pedestrians to deal with. The volunteers arrived in rapid and orderly fashion, but there was nothing they could do to save the building.

A crowd of only 40 or 50 residents assembled to watch the spectacle. Most stood at a safe distance back of the school playground. In front of the building, a power company workman climbed up a utility pole across Third Street and severed wires which presented a danger to observers.

A southwest wind, not strong, but capable of whipping the flames, carried embers out into the trees and towards homes just north and east of the school grounds. Also endangered, but saved, was the Allen School annex, a building east of the main structure.

One fireman, Dick Walter, was injured. He was treated for a wrist burn.

In their efforts to check the flames, firemen fought the fire from two fronts, the center rear and the center front. The south-

For a full page of fire pictures see page 3. Additional news of Allen School fire appears on page 2.

westerly wind carried the fire into the north part of the building.

Not only the building, but all its contents, including a fine grade school library, were lost in the night fire. Firemen and spectators described the fire as "intensely hot." People standing on East Third Street were forced to move. The 330 by 152 foot building held 400,000 board feet of lumber.

Crowd Quickly Gathers
Despite the early morning hour, a crowd quickly gathered. Spectators watched as a great cloud of smoke, brightly illuminated by the fire, rolled northeast across town.

Spectators included the principal, Ford Hunnell. There were tears in his eyes as he helplessly watched the flames engulf the big building. Hunnell has been principal since 1943, having succeeded John Jensen, principal from 1932 to 1943. Ivan Ginther, with a year's service, was the first principal.

Without duties, at least temporarily, as a result of the fire are 15 home room teachers.

Hundreds of spectators visited the fire area today, to find only parts of a few blackened walls and the stone entrance in place. Among spectators were many of the Allen pupils, and most of the teachers.

In the rubbish were many personal belongings, as well as school fixtures.

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North and east of the flaming building, in the path of a southwest wind, residents were frantically busy protecting their homes.

"All of us were out there with hoses," said Mrs. John Wilson, 334 E. Hawthorne. "The sparks were raining on our roofs and lawns and bushes. But as soon as they landed we got them out."

A steady patrol of fire trucks in the school area protected neighborhood homes.

Santa to be at municipal tree here Saturday

Bend Jaycees are anticipating as many as 400 kiddies Saturday when Santa Claus makes his annual visit to the municipal tree, Bob Baltimore, chairman, announced today.

Bend firemen will deliver Santa to the tree at Oregon and Wall Streets at 1 p.m. Kiddies will form a line down Oregon Avenue towards the Pine Tavern.

Jaycees will try to get all the children through by 4 p.m. However, Santa will stay later if necessary. Following his visit with the children, Santa will visit St. Charles Memorial Hospital.

IF YOU'VE LOST PERSONAL PROPERTY in the Allen School Fire

These losses will be covered for our household goods policy-holders. This coverage includes your children's personal books, clothing, any athletic equipment or musical instruments.

TO EXPEDITE CLAIMS ON MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS please bring us a sales slip (if purchased recently) or an appraisal of value from any local music firm.

GORDON RANDALL
1036 Wall AGENCY 382-1421