

\$10,000,000 Loss Caused by Blast

Chicago — (U.P.)—Two men were killed and two injured in a generating plant explosion that caused an estimated \$10,000,000 damage.

The blast rocked the six-story Commonwealth Edison plant in suburban Stickey late Sunday night, sending chunks of metal and stone flying through the roof and walls.

The dead were identified as Clarence T. Jorgensen, 36, Evergreen Park, Ill., an engineer, and George A. Thorsen, 34, Oak Lawn, a turbine operator.

Authorities said a 100,000 kilowatt generating unit exploded as engineers fed steam into it. Cause of the blast was not known.

An eyewitness said the blast blew out the whole south section of the giant plant, which had taken seven years to construct a cost of 100 million dollars.

The entire plant, which had a capacity of 640,000 kilowatts, was knocked out of commission. Other plants would be able to supply the lost power to Chicago and suburbs, the spokesman said.

Christmas Tree Fire Danger Cited; Tips For Safety Listed

The essence of Christmas, for many people, is centered in the Christmas tree, with its shining lights and ornaments.

But beware of those decorations.

A young couple and their 7-week-old baby were severely burned when a spark, apparently from a defective lighting set, ignited their tree last year in New York City.

A mother was burned rescuing her children from a fire in Brockport, N. Y., which started when their tree caught fire. A faulty tree light plug seemed to be to blame. Flames destroyed all the family's Christmas gifts.

40 Routed

In South River, N. J., a fire routed 40 people began when sparks from a toy electric train beneath it ignited a Christmas tree.

In Union, N. J., 2 families were made homeless from a fire which spread from a blazing Christmas tree. Evidently ornamental lights had overloaded the circuit, which caused the fire.

These are just a few examples of last year's tragic holiday fires. Despite repeated warnings, there probably will be similar tragedies this year.

Ignites Easily

Key to the trouble is the tree itself — filled with pitch and resin and extremely combustible. It ignites easily and burns so furiously that it is virtually impossible to put out the fire quickly.

As a protective measure, many local fire departments now offer to flameproof Christmas trees. If your town offers this service, take advantage of it. But in any case, protect your family by following these precautions recommended by the National Board of Fire Underwriters:

1. Choose a small tree rather than a large one.

2. Store it outdoors until a day or two before Christmas.

3. When you bring it in, stand it in water and set it in a cool part of the house, away from radiators, heaters and fireplaces. Don't let it block an exit.

Reminders

When you decorate your tree, remember these things:

1. Be sure every lighting set and electric cord you use is in good condition — no worn or frayed wires, no loose sockets. (Naturally, you never use candles!)

2. When you buy new sets or cords, look for the UL label. The ones that bear it have passed Underwriters' Laboratories tests for fire and shock hazards.

3. Provide a switch some distance from the tree for turning tree lights on and off.

Fireproofing Advised

4. Ornaments should all be made of fireproof materials like metal or glass. Never decorate with cotton or paper unless they are labelled "fireproof" or "flameproof."

5. Never set up electric trains under the tree.

Even when your tree is safe as you can make it, take these added precautions as long as it is in your home:

1. Don't let gift wrappings pile up under or near the tree.

2. Don't leave tree lights burning when no one is home.

From time to time, see whether needles near the lights have started to turn brown. If so, change the position of the lights.

When needles start to fall, take the tree down and discard it — outdoors!

Subscribers

To report improper or non-delivery of The Mail Tribune phone 2-6141 before 6:45 p.m. daily and 10:30 a.m. Sunday.

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OFFERING "about \$3,500,000" to purchase Cleveland Indians, Joseph Cole, owner of automobile sales agency and key manufacturing firm, awaits decision of baseball club directors who meet to "seriously consider" offer. (International Soundphoto)

Repentant Father Admits Slaying Wife and Children

Los Angeles—(U.P.)—Four murder charges were expected to be filed today against mild-mannered Harold Oilar, 39, who is accused of hacking his wife and three children to death after a family Christmas party.

Dep. Dist. Atty. John W. Loucks of nearby Pasadena, where the brutal slayings occurred Sunday, said he would file murder charges against the repentant rug merchant.

Oilar confessed to the killings yesterday in the prison ward of Los Angeles County Hospital where he was taken after trying suicide by inhaling gas. Doctors worked for hours to save his life.

He told police he bludgeoned his wife and children to death with a boyscout axe, after they all sang Christmas carols together Sunday, because financial reverses made him fear for their security.

The rug merchant said he bolted from bedroom to bedroom and beat to death his wife, Grace, 39, his two daughters, Janet, 9, and Marthat, 7, and his son, Randy, 12.

"I'm sorry it had to end this way," Oilar wept. "Please put me out of my misery. I was afraid to live. And I knew my family couldn't live without me to provide for them. I loved them dearly."

"My only defense," he sobbed, "is to get out of this world and make room for normal people. I only have one thing in mind. I want to die."

License Inspector Loses His License

Indianapolis, Ind. — (U.P.) — Ivan Kernalde, who conducts drivers' tests for the Indiana Motor Vehicle bureau, lost his driver's license for a year Monday for reckless and drunken driving.

Cyprus Peaceful Following Rioting

Nicosia, Cyprus — (U.P.) — Peace returned to Cyprus Monday after a weekend of anti-American and anti-British rioting in which three rioters were wounded and nearly 100 arrested.

British authorities dismantled barbed wire barricades and lifted stern anti-riot measures throughout the colony.

The island returned to normal as suddenly as demonstrations boiled up Saturday against the United States and Britain.

British troops opened fire in Limassol and police fired tear gas in Nicosia in their efforts to stem the outbursts.

Gov. Sir Robert Armitage sternly declared to would put down any further threats to peace. But the emergency orders banning meetings of more than five persons, which were issued yesterday, now have been withdrawn.

Dry Kiln Operators Slate April Meeting

The seventh annual meeting of the Western Dry Kiln clubs will be held in Klamath Falls next April, according to T. E. McGraw, Phoenix.

Plans for the meeting were made by officers and program committee members of the Southern Oregon-Northern California Lumber Seasoning club.

Men from all western states will attend. Technical discussions of lumber drying problems and visits to the area's mills will feature the session.

Further information may be obtained from McGraw, Box 166, Phoenix.

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