

# Tragic Holiday Fires Fatal To 19 Persons

**By UNITED PRESS**  
A series of tragic holiday fires, two of them blamed on Christmas trees, have killed 19 persons, 10 of them small children. A Christmas Day flash fire killed three youngsters when flames, apparently touched off by a yule tree, trapped them in the bedroom of their home in Great Falls, Mont. The children's father, Joe Long, who carried two young nephews to safety, had to be restrained from dashing through a wall of flames in an effort to rescue his own youngsters. Dead were Roxanna Rose, 3, Joseph Oliver, 4, and Rose Marie, 8 months. Fire Battalion Chief Herman Hurd said although the exact

cause of the blaze was not known, the parents had left the Christmas tree lights on all night. "This fire could serve as a tragic reminder not to leave Christmas trees unattended," Hurd said. Three other small children burned to death Monday in a fire that swept their home in Northern Maine. The victims' mother, Mrs. Arlene Goodhue, 21, Allagash, Me., was not told her three sons were dead until after Christmas. She and her husband were hospitalized with burns suffered while trying to save the children. Killed were Gary Goodhue, 3, and his brothers, Kelly, 2, and David, 2 months. Authorities blamed the fire on a defective wood stove. Earlier, eight persons were killed in a fire caused by defective Christmas tree wiring at Doctor's Memorial Hospital in Minneapolis. Four patients and a nurse were in critical condition from smoke inhalation as a result of the blaze. Authorities at Meriden, Conn., continued their investigation into the cause of a tenement building fire that killed a mother and four of her children. Mrs. Louis Rios, 39, and her children, Gladys, 17, Isabelle, 6, Eddie, 3, and Eddie Nelson, 4, were killed.

## Second Christmas Theft Of Automobile Reported

Wildwood, N.J. — UP — A Santa Claus in reverse made pedestrians of the Robert Beare family for the second Christmas in eight years. Beare parked his car outside his home and when the family looked out Christmas morning it was gone. Another thief made off with Beare's auto on Christmas morning in 1948.

## Nomura Proposed as Japan's Defense Chief

Tokyo — UP — An influential group of the government's Liberal Democratic party today proposed Kichisaburo Nomura as chief of the defense agency on the new cabinet being formed by Premier Tazara Ishibashi. Nomura was ambassador to the United States at the time of the 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor.

## Is That So?

How long has it been since you've stepped outdoors on a clear, dark night and witnessed the greatest show on earth, the vast twinkling spectacle of heaven?  
Tonight, let's look up at the Milky Way, the luminous band which stretches all around the sky. Now, during the frosty bite of winter, it's at its very best. And then, as my twin daughters and I fire away with the questions: First off, what is the Milky Way?  
It is made up of countless stars. All of the stars you can see in the sky with the naked eye are members of this Milky Way, including our solar system which

**By EUGENE BURNS**  
Ranger-Naturalist

Boys, the evidence seems to point out that we are located toward the rim of the great wheel. Is this Milky Way galaxy in motion, including our solar system, of course? Roughly Circular Orbit  
Indeed, yes. This great wheel is turning with the Great Star Cloud of Sagittarius pretty well in the hub or center. Our solar system, lying some 25,000 light years from the center is whirling in a roughly circular orbit around this center at a speed of almost 140 miles a second. Yet so vast is our galaxy that even at this fantastic rate of speed the sun takes 200 million years to complete a single swing around the center.



rotates around the sun. Even the majority of stars which can be seen by our most powerful telescopes are members of this Milky Way.  
How big is this Milky Way? Its size is nothing short of tremendous. Traveling at the speed of light, 186,000 miles a second which would whip us around our earth seven times within a second, and from our earth to the moon in a little more than one second, and from our earth to the sun in about eight minutes, it would take four years merely to reach the nearest star, Alpha, in the Southern Hemisphere constellation of Centaurus.  
And it would take roughly 100,000 years to go from one end of our Milky Way to the other.  
How many stars are there in the Milky Way?  
Area Enormous  
About 100 billion. But yet the area is so enormous that only a very minute fraction of the total space it occupies is taken up by the stars themselves. Astronomer Bart J. Bok, co-author of the Milky Way (Blakiston, N. Y.) asserts that a million times as many stars could be stored in this space without risking an undue frequency of stellar collisions.  
Are there other galaxies? Gigantic as ours is, it is difficult to conceive of other galaxies but yet powerful telescopes have already discovered more than 1,200 each a Milky Way system of its own. Some astronomers believe that there may well be tens of thousands of others.  
What is the overall shape of our galaxy?  
It has the shape of a flattened disk, a gigantic wheel.  
Where in this great wheel-shaped galaxy does our solar system lie? Today, according to

Are we learning anything new about it? Each year brings new exploration and soon the picture of our Milky Way should be pretty well filled out. And once we know this, surely the beauty of our Milky Way will become intensified as we understand more of its scope and majesty and orderly procession through the sky.  
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