

Eight Children, Two Adults Perish When Trapped in House

Jersey Shore, Pa. — A fire raced through a 50-year-old, two-story frame house Saturday, killing eight children and their father and grandmother. The victims were trapped in a bedroom by a chest of drawers that blocked their escape through a window.

The only survivor of the tragedy was the mother of the children, who ran screaming from the house with her hair and clothing in flames.

Firemen said the blaze apparently was set off by an exploding heater. They were hampered in fighting the fire because there were no fire hydrants near the home. Hoses had to be strung 2,000 feet, and by the time the first sprays of water were turned on the house it was engulfed by flames.

The dead, some of them so badly burned they could not be identified, were Torrance Flook, 40, the father, Mrs. Maude Blair, 63, the grandmother, and Harry, 16, Bonnie, 12, Terry, 10, Susan, 9, Kenneth, 7, Ruth, 5, Dick, 4, and Billy, 1.

Bodies Huddled

The bodies of two of the children were huddled in their father's arms. His body was slumped over a chest of drawers that had been pushed in front of a window. Mrs. Blair's body was found slumped over another window sill. The other bodies were nearby.

Mrs. Mabel Flook, who was on the first floor when the fire broke out at 2:30 a.m., ran out the back door. Neighbors beat out her flaming hair and clothing. She was treated for severe shock, but her burns were not serious.

Neighbors made heroic efforts to rescue the trapped family by raising ladders to upstairs windows. They were beaten back by the flames.

Firemen fought the blaze for three hours before they could enter what was left of the house. Only two walls still were standing.

Norman White, a neighbor, said he was awakened by an explosion and then saw the fire.

"All I could hear was the flames crackling and children screaming," he said.

Races From House

He raced from his house 50 yards away, with an extension ladder. He raised the ladder to a window and managed to grasp Mrs. Blair where she lay slumped over a window sill. But he lost his grip and was forced back by the flames.

Herman Sechrist, another neighbor, raised a ladder to the window. He tried to pull Flook out but his efforts were blocked by the dresser.

Neighbors flocked to the scene and stood around the smoldering debris hours after the tragedy.

Officials said the tragedy was the worst in the town's history.

Strout Realty Company Opens Local Office

Harry F. Merriken, Old Stage rd., Medford, has been appointed manager of the local office of Strout Realty corporation, the company's western headquarters in Los Angeles has announced.

Merriken will operate the business from his home until a permanent office is established. The company has offices from coast-to-coast and handles ranches, farms, homes and businesses.

Merriken has lived in Medford and vicinity for 15 years.

Missile Firing Submarines Able to Hit All Targets

Portsmouth, N. H. — The USS Growler, the Navy's new missile-firing submarine, was to be launched Saturday. She was pronounced ready and able to hit any military target in the world with a nuclear warhead.

The Growler was scheduled to slide down the ways at Portsmouth Naval Shipyard after christening by Mrs. Robert K. Byerts of Los Angeles. She is the widow of the skipper of an earlier submarine named Growler, which was sunk in action in World War II.

Equipped with the Navy's Regulus II nuclear missile, the Growler has striking range of more than 1,000 nautical miles, covering every significant military target in the world, according to a spokesman for Chance Vought Aircraft company of Dallas, Tex., the missile manufacturer.

At a news conference before the launching, Sam O. Perry, chief missile engineer of Chance Vought, said the Growler could fire the Regulus from the Atlantic Coast and hit a target farther away than Kansas City.

He said the growler would be able to remain submerged indefinitely, needing only to extend her breathing snorkel at infrequent intervals.

Growler missiles will be guided by a self-contained system that guides them directly to target from an undersea launching. The Regulus is 57 feet long, powered by a turbo-jet engine with a speed twice that of sound.

'Dead' Woman Helps Identify Drowning Victims

Boise — A former Spokane woman, who showed up after hearing that she had been tentatively identified as a drowning victim, Saturday positively identified one of the three men in the four-death accident as James R. Mansier, 48, former Spokane, Wash., cook.

Mrs. Hesper Scarah, who formerly operated a luncheonette in Spokane, came to Boise from Jackson, Wyo., at her own expense to help officers make the identification.

She viewed the body of the woman who had at first been tentatively identified as Mrs. Scarah. However, Mrs. Scarah said she could give officers no help in identifying the body of the woman.

The three men and the woman were drowned late on Tuesday when their car had plunged into the Payette river north of Horseshoe Bend.

The State Police Central Identification bureau said Clarence Leo Jackson, 51, of Spokane, has been positively identified by relatives. The bureau said it was fairly certain that the second man was Randolph Lloyd, last known address Cheyenne, Wyo.

Salem — Gov. Robert D. Holmes said today he has been advised that Oregon has qualified for a \$14 million federal loan to supplement its unemployment compensation fund.

Gill Challenges Two Opponents

Lebanon — State Sen. Warren Gill Friday challenged his two opponents for the Republican nomination for government to announce their choices for successors if either should be elected governor.

Both Secretary of State Mark Hatfield and State Treasurer Sig Unander are in the GOP gubernatorial race against Gill.

The Lebanon attorney said this is "the first time in the history of Oregon that both the secretary of state and state treasurer have tried to quit their jobs in the middle of their terms."

If either of the officeholders is elected he would be able to appoint his own successor.

Gill challenged both Hatfield and Unander to make their choices known. "If they don't tell us," Gill said, "then a vote cast for either of these men is a 'blind' vote who will serve on the board of control in the second or third top job in the state."

Heart Disease Topic Of Medical Meeting

Lectures on heart disease will be given at the April 9 meeting of the Jackson County Medical society starting at 3 p.m. in the Rogue Valley Country club, according to officials.

The Wednesday evening dinner meeting will get under way at 7 p.m. Guest lecturer for the afternoon will be Dr. Gordon A. Logan and Dr. H. T. Dodge from Seattle. Hosts for the meeting will be Dr. June Byers, Dr. Malcolm Byers and Dr. Laurel Case.

Nunley Named Deputy Judge Advocate, VFW

Walter D. Nunley, Medford attorney, has been appointed deputy judge advocate for the department of Oregon Veterans of Foreign Wars, according to the Portland headquarters of the group.

Nunley served as a sergeant in the Army Air Force during World War II, seeing action in several Pacific areas during a 35-month duty tour. He was a radio operator and mechanic while in the service.

Premier Visits Rebel Stronghold

Budapest — Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev traveled triumphantly Saturday to Stalinvaros, a former rebel stronghold that was one of the last to be crushed in Hungary's 1956 anti-Russian revolt.

The Soviet Communist party leader, making his first journey outside the Kremlin since he became Premier, set out early today for the 60-mile trip.

Stalinvaros is a major industrial center south of the capital. It became known during the October uprising for its stiff resistance against Soviet troops sent to quell the revolt.

Little Rock, Ark., is the home of the University of Arkansas, Arkansas Law school, Little Rock Junior college, St. John's Seminary, Philander Smith college, Arkansas Baptist college and the School for the Deaf and Blind.

Arabs' Unity Drive To Pressure Israel

London — The drive for Arab unity spreading through the Middle East means new military pressures on Israel, Middle Eastern observers agreed Saturday.

But they are also convinced the Israelis are — and will be for the foreseeable future — more than a match for even the combined armies of the Arabs.

Militarily, Israel has only 100,000 men on active duty in her army. The major Arab states — Egypt, Syria, Jordan, Iraq, Saudi Arabia and Lebanon — have roughly 240,000.

In the air, the disparity is even greater. Israel, informed sources say, has roughly 100 jets and 50 prop-driven planes, while the combined Arab air forces would total close to 275 — almost 175 of them jets.

"Every Citizen a Soldier"

Israel, however, can close the manpower gap by calling up her highly organized "every citizen a soldier" reserves as she did on three days' notice before the Sinai attack in 1956.

With her reserves ordered up, Israel on paper is roughly equal in manpower to the strength of the Arab armies, gravely weaker in armored strength, and significantly weaker in modern combat planes, military experts say.

But despite those shortcomings, they say, Israel can more than hold her own with the Arabs because her army is better trained, better led,

World War II combat veterans and seasoned fighters of their underground terrorist organizations for their officers' corps, the Arabs could muster few combat trained men to lead their armies after freeing themselves from Western influence following World War II.

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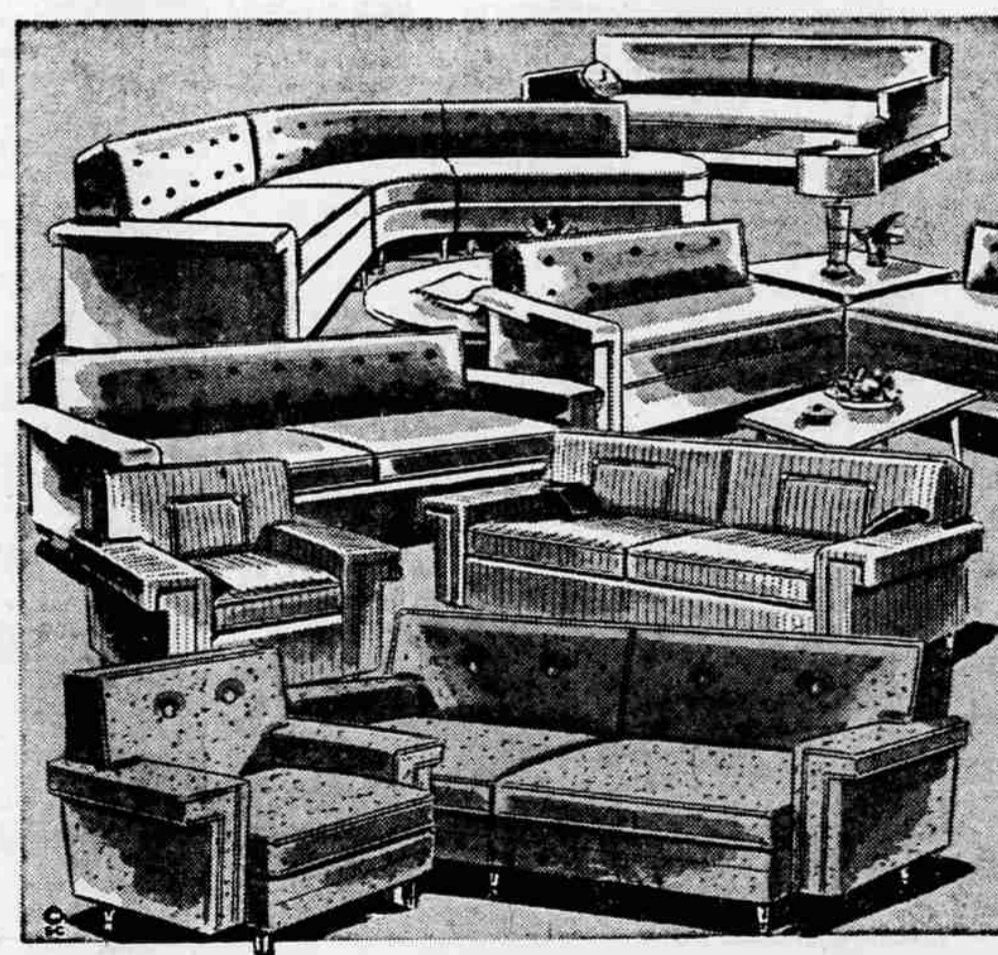
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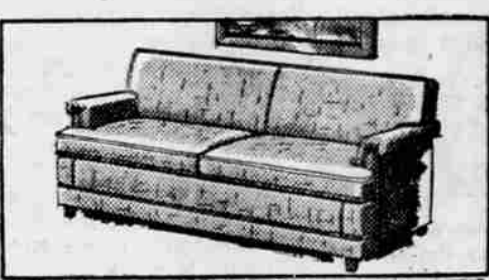
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