

65 Elderly Persons Perish as Blaze Sweeps Rest Home

NORWALK (UPI) — Sixty-five elderly men and women perished in a rural rest home fire Saturday in the worst fire in this country since 95 persons died in a Chicago school fire in 1958.

State Fire Marshal Fred Rice said there were 86 residents and three employees in the Golden Age Nursing Home 10 miles from here and "65 didn't get out."

Rice, after an on-the-spot inspection with Gov. James A. Rhodes, confirmed that three employees and only 21 of the elderly residents, many of them invalids, escaped from the one-story building which quickly became an inferno as winds whipped through the structure.

The tragedy was the second disastrous rest home fire in the

United States last week. On Monday, 26 elderly persons died in a fire at the Surfside Hotel in Atlantic City, N.J., a resort hotel used as a convalescent home in the off-season.

School Fire Worse

The Chicago school fire on Dec. 1, 1958, claimed 95 lives. The tragedy, however, was far from the worst in Ohio's history, three fires each having claimed more than 100 lives. A fire at the Ohio Penitentiary on April 21, 1930, killed 320.

"This is the most devastating thing I have ever seen," the governor said as he looked at the smoldering ruins which disclosed an occasional charred skull and piece of human flesh.

Rhodes ordered all assistance at the state's command made available and then flew to Washington to join other officials in paying their respects to the slain President Kennedy Saturday afternoon.

Rhodes ordered a complete investigation of the tragedy by the Highway Patrol under Capt. A. B. Cook.

Robert Pollack, president of the Cleveland firm which owned the rest home, said the building and operation had recently been approved by the state and the Health Department. He said it was cited for an "efficient, clean, safe nursing home."



THREE OTHERS — President John F. Kennedy was the fourth chief executive to be assassinated while in office. The three others (shown here, left to right) were Abraham Lincoln, April 14, 1865; James Garfield, July 2, 1881; and William McKinley, Sept. 6, 1901. (UPI)

Four Presidents Have Been Assassinated

By United Press International

John F. Kennedy was the fourth president of the United States to die by assassination. His death came 128 years after the first attempt on a president's life.

Andrew Jackson was attending the state funeral of Rep. Warren R. Davis of South Carolina on Jan. 10, 1835, when a Washington house painter stepped from behind a pillar at the capitol and fired two pistols at the President. The bullets missed.

Thirty years later, John Wilkes Booth entered President Abraham Lincoln's box at Ford's Theater April 14, 1865, and shot the Civil War leader in the back of the head. Lincoln died the next day.

Only 18 years later, President James A. Garfield died from a bullet in the back fired by a disappointed office seeker, Charles J. Guiteau. Garfield was shot while walking through a Washington railroad station.

President William McKinley, at the head of a reception line at the 1901 Pan American Exposition at Buffalo, N.Y., was shot in the chest as he extended his hand to a visitor.

Between Lincoln and Kennedy, a number of presidents have been the target of assassins.

Ex-President Theodore Roosevelt was wounded in Milwaukee during the 1912 election

campaign when a New York saloon keeper fired at him. President-elect Franklin D. Roosevelt narrowly escaped death when an assassin's bullet intended for him killed Chicago Mayor Anton J. Cermak in 1933 in Florida. President Harry S. Truman watched from a second story window of the Blair House in Washington in 1950 while police and Secret Service agents killed two Puerto Rican nationalists who fought their way into the mansion.

Kennedy was the first president to be killed from a rifle bullet and while moving.

SALEM (UPI) — At least four "violent" telephone calls were received by the governor's office Friday after word of President Kennedy's assassination was released.

Travis Cross, press secretary for Gov. Mark Hatfield, said the calls were "abusive," and said they had been monitored.

Suspect Refused Mother's Calls

DALLAS (UPI) — Mrs. Marguerite Oswald used to call her son by telephone when he was in Moscow in 1959 and get only a click in his ear.

Lee H. Oswald, who police said killed President Kennedy, would hang up on his mother. She would sob, but she still had kind words for her boy.

"He was a boy who helped his mother," she said.

She said her son had suffered "persecution" when he defected to the Soviet Union and that since his return to the United States in 1962 she had not seen him — that is until Saturday when she visited him in a jail at Dallas.

"I want to hear from HIM that he did it," she said.

Dressed in her nurse's uniform, she drove calmly to Dallas from her home in Fort Worth Saturday.

Mrs. Oswald said her boy was a boy who had to go to work to help support the family at an early age. He was the youngest of three sons.

"He always brought home what he earned and never spent it on himself," she said.

Oswald's father died before the boy was born. Mrs. Oswald had to raise him herself.

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Post Offices To Be Closed Monday

WASHINGTON (UPI) — The Post Office Department said all postal installations will be closed Monday but some limited service will be provided for businesses.

The comptroller of the currency, regulator of national banks, said it "strongly approves" of actions by individual banks or governors of states to close banks Monday and "urges the adoption of similar action" by other states and banks. The comptroller's announcement appeared to mean that banks were free to close and the comptroller hoped they would.

The post office said no deliveries, except special delivery mail, would be made but incoming mail would be distributed to boxes. There will be no postal services at all, however, between the hours of 12 noon and 1 p.m. EST, the hours of the President's funeral, the announcement said.

Jackson Elected To Board of Directors

PORTLAND (UPI) — Glenn L. Jackson of Medford has been elected to the board of directors of Commonwealth, Inc., a mortgage banking firm based in Portland.

Jackson is chairman of the Oregon Highway Commission. He also is vice chairman of Pacific Power & Light Co. and is a director of the U. S. National Bank.

REMAIN ABROAD

WASHINGTON (UPI) — President Johnson has asked all U.S. ambassadors and other top diplomats abroad to remain at their posts and continue to discharge their duties, the State Department said Saturday.

Elderly Patients

About half of the elderly patients came from Cleveland and Cuyahoga County, Pollack said. A number of the residents were transferred here from the Cleveland State Hospital about a year ago.

The grim task of identifying the charred remains began shortly before noon. Officials said identification would be difficult and mostly through teeth and dentures and from charts showing the beds assigned for each resident.

Downed Pilot Still Missing

SPOKANE, Wash. (UPI) — The missing pilot of an Air National Guard jet which crashed in northcentral Washington Nov. 14 spent his tenth night in the wilderness Saturday if he is alive.

First Lt. Robert Boucher, 25, has been sought since his crashed plane was found west of Oroville, Wash., near the Canadian border.

The plane's radio observer bailed from the craft, but he said he did not see Boucher leave the airplane. Crews, checking the F86's wreckage, found no trace of Boucher in the plane.

Search plane operations, hampered by weather, were unable to search Saturday.

Air National Guard officials at Fairchild Air Force Base near here said 41 ground searchers were seeking Boucher Saturday. They are led by six Canadian Indian guides.

Maj. David Kinney, search coordinator for the Air National Guard, said planes have blanketed the area for more than a week without a trace of Boucher.

"The hopes of finding him alive are slim, but whatever hope we have rests with the ground personnel," Kinney said.

Irish Cadets To Attend Funeral

DUBLIN (UPI) — A contingent of 300 Cadets from the Curragh Camp Military College will attend President Kennedy's funeral at the request of Mrs. Jacqueline Kennedy, the Irish government announced Saturday night.

Mrs. Kennedy, in a request relayed to Prime Minister Sean Lemass by U.S. Ambassador Matthew McCloskey, had asked for the presence of a delegation from the Irish Army.

The Cadets will fly to the United States today on the same plane carrying President Eamon De Valera and Foreign Affairs Minister Frank Aiken to the funeral.

When Kennedy visited Ireland last summer he placed a wreath on the graves of Irish leaders executed in the 1916 revolt against Britain. He later requested and was presented the full Irish television recording of the ceremony.

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