

Flames Destroy Evans Building

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failed to revive her. The woman was terribly burned about the lower part of her body.

Evans Reported Seen
Whether others had been lost in the fire was uncertain through the early morning. The whereabouts of Sid Evans, the owner, who was very deaf, became a matter of serious concern, but at least one person reported having seen him on the street after the fire started.

At mid-morning, however, firemen were able to enter his third story apartment at the rear of the building and found his body, burned beyond recognition. It was removed in a canvass by a ladder. His two sons, Percy Evans, and Joe Evans, were working on the fire at the time, and a daughter, Mrs. Joy Rolph, had been there earlier in the morning.

Firemen continued to pour immense quantities of water into the buildings, and as the ruins cooled, a systematic search began for other bodies by firemen and police officers. Entering the Roberts hardware store on the ground floor, they found the body of Mrs. Harney. She was lying on her bed which had dropped through the floor of her second story apartment unit.

Shortly before 3 o'clock, firemen reached a light well in the center of the building, and there found, huddled together, the charred bodies of Mr. and Mrs. Peaster. They had been seen by Mrs. Elizabeth Sellers, one of the occupants, at their window into the light well when the fire was at its height. She had called to them, but they appeared dazed.

May Have Jumped
Police Chief Orville Hamilton, reconstructing their story, said it appeared they jumped or let themselves down into the light well, possibly after covering themselves with wet blankets. There they perished.

Firemen and police continued to search the ruins, and many wild rumors of other fatalities were heard. However, today, it was generally agreed that all occupants had been accounted for. A check indicated there were 40 living in the apartment, nine were fortunately absent over the week-end, five died and 28 escaped.

As soon as the fire had cooled, Fire Chief Keith Ambrose and his assistants began seeking the cause.

Their attention was centered for a time on an incinerator at the Tenth street rear corner of the basement. This was a well-built, bricked-in firebox, and they agreed it could not have been direct source of the blaze. The incinerator was used by the apartment house operator for trash-burning.

The chief said that he found wooden and pasteboard boxes had been used for temporary storage of ashes for the incinerator. These, he said, had been

placed at the right corner of an elevator shaft, against a concrete wall. It is probable, the chief said, that the ashes had held fire, and evidently smoldered and generated heat to burst into flame that licked wooden posts at the foot of the elevator shaft. The shaft formed a vent that sent the fire to the top of the building.

Ambrose said that he learned later that the incinerator and that section of the basement was reserved in the lease for the apartments.

Several injuries were reported following the blaze as firemen checked the survivors. Mrs. Elizabeth Sellers suffered back hurts when she fell as she climbed back into her kitchen from the inner court, turned back by heat and flames. Mrs. Carl Arthur sprained her hand in forcing a window in her apartment, and Reginald B. Ashworth received facial burns when he attempted to reenter the burning structure.

Fire Chief Ambrose sustained a cut left hand from flying glass which also cut the eye of Jack Corkery, second assistant fire chief. A third was hurt, Ray Howard, fire department driver, who injured his knee.

Jack Moore, city building inspector, was struck on the head by a falling timber and was treated for a bad cut at Klamath Valley hospital.

Several occupants of the apartment house suffered minor burns and many had their hair singed as they escaped the flames.

All five of the dead were well known in Klamath Falls. Mrs. Lorenzen has taught girls physical education at Klamath Union high school the past 3 years. She was born in Astoria, Ore., daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Victor Gustafson, and today her body was shipped to Astoria for burial.

A sister, Mrs. Anita Soren, also survives. Sid Evans, owner of the building, has lived here for the past 39 years and has long been identified with business activity in the city. Mrs. Evans, visiting in San Diego, was advised of her husband's death and is expected home tonight. Funeral arrangements will be announced pending her arrival.

Mrs. Golda Harney, employed at Whylat's at the time of her death, had lived here the past 16 years. A son, Jack, was notified of his mother's disappearance before her body was found and he was en route here from his home at Medford as firemen took her body from the ruins. A daughter, Norah, of Menlo Park, also survives.

Mr. and Mrs. George Peaster came here last fall from Dallas, Tex., where he had 1234512 las, Tex., where he was connected for many years with Butler Brothers. They purchased the Klamath Variety store from Fred Eyerly and with a man named Ashbaugh, Seattle Wash., owned the business. A daughter, student at Bellingham, Wash., is said to be en route here to make final arrangements.

Many acts of heroism on the part of both firemen, police and volunteers were reported. By-standers assisted in the rescues, held ladders and moved hoses and gave other aid.

Frank Swift and Frank Ferrari, both of Klamath Falls, had started out on a fishing trip on Upper Klamath lake and saw the fire as they drove down Pine street. They stopped and assisted in the removal of occupants from the 10th street rear apartments.

Motorcyclist Dies In Accident
OREGON CITY, Feb. 17 (AP)—Unable to start his motorcycle, Earl R. Judd Jr., 26, Oregon City, asked a truck driver for a tow. The driver, Wayne Sawtell, 46, Molalla, advised against it, but Judd insisted. After a quarter-mile, the cycle flipped over. Judd was killed instantly.

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WRITTEN GUARANTEE

Local Red Cross Gives On The Spot Aid At Fire

"On the spot" assistance was rendered by the Klamath county chapter, American Red Cross, from 6:20 a. m. until 9 p. m. Sunday, during the tragic blaze which gutted the Evans apartment building on Main and caused the death of five persons.

Otto Smith, chairman of Klamath county chapter of the Red Cross, arrived immediately after the fire broke out and worked constantly, in and out of the building, questioning police, firemen and people on the street, in an attempt to locate and identify residents of the building.

All records were destroyed and only by persistent efforts was the list of residents compiled.

Mrs. Lena Dennis, secretary of the chapter, gave her home telephone number over the air, and assisted by Mrs. Ruth Stanley took calls all day pertaining to the fire. From 11 a. m. until about 9 p. m. over 60 calls were taken, Mrs. Dennis reported.

A wire was received from Mountain View requesting information on Mrs. Gertrude Longton. Mrs. Longton did not live at the Evans but at the Valley and was on duty at Klamath Valley hospital where she is a nurse.

Generous offerings of clothing for fire victims were received and the Bend-Portland Trucking company came forward with an offer to loan trucks to pick up contributions. One load was picked up Sunday and more will be collected today, Mrs. Dennis said. Only one request for assistance had been made Monday morning by a burned-out resident of the

Apartment 27 Years Old

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company office went into the building in 1938, and prior to that time the Klamath Furniture company had been located in that space.

Walls of the building were of brick and tile and the inside framework well constructed of two-by-four and two-by-six planking, lathes and plaster. There was very little steelwork in the construction. Persons who worked on the building in 1920 say that it was one of the best-built structures in town at that time.

Sidney Evans, one of the victims of the tragic fire, had bought out his brother's interest in the building just a month ago and was sole operator. Tom Watters, real estate man, said that Evans had asked him several weeks ago to make an appraisal of the building, saying that he was thinking of selling. Evans mentioned \$180,000 as his price for the structure at that time.

Evans, it was reported, The Red Cross aided with food, clothing and shelter in this instance.

Cooperation was offered to Jennie's cafe, by the Red Cross, to continue serving meals free of cost to victims of the fire, policemen, firemen and volunteer helpers, throughout the day.

Smith expressed keep appreciation of public cooperation in his quest for information, and credited both Mrs. Lundy Clinton and Carl Arthur with supplying much of the data. It was 5 p. m., he said, before an exact and complete list of residents of the Evans was finished.

Back Injured
Mrs. Elizabeth Sellers, employed at the Winema, suffered back injuries when she fell through a window. Mrs. Sellers, confined to her bed at the Winema hotel, said she was up getting breakfast when she heard someone scream, "Barbarn" and "Fire." She said she went to the hall door and opened it. She was greeted by a blast of heat and smoke. Quickly closing the door, Mrs. Sellers said she ran to the kitchen window and climbed out into the inner court but was forced back by the heat. She climbed into the window again and fell, injuring herself.

Then she said she attempted to go down the hall and felt her way to the rear stairs. It was so black with smoke that she could not see, Mrs. Sellers said, and she fell down the back stairs and into the alley.

Mrs. Sellers told The Herald and News this morning that when she was in the inner court, she looked up and saw Mr. and Mrs. George Peaster, who lost their lives, standing at their window. She called to them to come with her, but both appeared dazed, she said, and did not respond.

Persistent rumors that Mrs. Mayme Johnson, veteran first grade teacher at Mills, had lost

shoes and coats and ran to the window and called for help from firemen below. As they left the window the flames licked into their apartment and enveloped the hall which is adjacent to their bed. Miss Thompson is resting at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. G. S. Thompson, of Mt. Laki, and parents of Miss Arnest, Mr. and Mrs. G. B. Arnest of Cottage Grove, drove here immediately and took their daughter home for a rest. She will return Thursday.

Mr. and Mrs. Calvin Lee, both employed at Sears Roebuck company, were not at work this morning but it is understood they left the building by the aid of firemen. They were at 2539 Wantland following the blaze but not available for a statement.

her life in the fire, were denied early yesterday by The Herald and News staff over KFLW after Superintendent of Schools Arnold Grulapp had checked early in the day and found both Mrs. Johnson and her daughter, Irma, at the home of Mrs. Edna Russell on Pacific Terrace. Mrs. Johnson was not available for a statement this morning. Her daughter spent virtually every week-end with her mother. She is employed by the Southern Pacific at Chiloquin.

Mrs. Mae K. Short, former Klamath county clerk, escaped from her apartment by way of the back stairs. She was resting today at the home of her son, Walter Hannon on the Merrill highway.

Mr. and Mrs. George Morin, whose apartment is on the second floor facing 10th street, came out through the window and were rescued from the balcony.

Nine occupants of the apartment house were not at home when the fire broke out. Most of those absent were out of the city.

They were Wesley B. Harrington, Mr. and Mrs. Lundy Clinton, Mr. and Mrs. Prentiss Puckett, Mrs. Edna Arnold, Mrs. Reginald Ashworth, Mrs. Della Schroeder, and Barbara Dotson.

Flying Course Meeting Slated
Persons interested in taking a commercial or instructors course in flying at the municipal airport are asked to attend a meeting at the office of Al Mocabee at 8 p. m. Tuesday.

Mocabee, whose offices are in

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SHA Students To Sing In Chorus
Two students of Sacred Heart academy were notified this week-end that they had been chosen to participate in the massed chorus at the Northwest Conference of Music Educators at Seattle, Wash., March 19 to 22.

Honored were Ellen O'Keefe and Patricia O'Leary and choice of the two girls from the school is considered exceptional in view of the fact that usually only one outstanding voice student is chosen. Miss O'Keefe is a second alto, Miss O'Leary, first soprano. Both girls are expected to attend, according to academy officials.

Due to the fact that the legs of an elephant are like supporting columns, there is no stress when the animal stands.

The Oregon Flying Service portion of the hangar, has asked that all pilots who took the private course with him under the GI bill be present.

Klamath Man's Father Passes
Andrew Loney, 79, father of Andrew Loney Jr., director of music education in the city schools, died at 11:30 a. m. today at his home in Long Beach, Calif. Final rites will be held in Portland, the time to be announced later. Mr. Loney is survived by his wife, Ida, and four children and one grandchild, Mary Louise Loney of Seattle. Andrew Loney Jr. was at his father's bedside at the time of his passing.

25,700 Jobless In Portland Area
PORTLAND, Feb. 17 (AP)—The metropolitan Portland area has 25,700 jobless, the state employment service reported today.

The area includes Multnomah, Washington and Columbia counties. The agency said the February 1 total was 1700 more than the previous month, but 9300 less than a year ago. About a fourth are veterans.

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