

Evans Apartment Blaze Only Big Item On Fire Department's 1947 List

By EDNA KILLMEYER
Early 1947 brought with it the one outstanding fire tragedy of the year in Klamath Falls, the Evans apartment blaze which claimed five lives. With that one exception, the past 12 months were quiet ones in fire news.

On his monthly fire report for February, Fire Chief Keith K. Ambrose wrote these words:

"On the morning of Sunday, February 16, 1947, at 6:05, we received a call over the telephone to the Evans apartment building located at 10th and Main streets. The call was answered by engines No. 2 and 3 and truck No. 1. On leaving the station, light was plainly visible indicating that the fire was through the roof, and the building was entirely involved, especially the third floor. On arrival the occupants were on the balconies of which there were three on the 10th street side and three on the Main street side.

All of these people were taken off by ladders without injury. Others made their way to safety down stairs from the second floor in the rear of the building.

"Five tenants of this apartment lost their lives. It should be noted that four of them had apartments on the inside court on the third floor, namely Mrs. William Lorenzen, Mrs. Golda Harney, and Mr. and Mrs. George Peaster. There were eight apartments in this inside court and no means of egress except through halls that completely surrounded it. The fifth victim of the fire was Syd Evans, who lived in apartment 25 in the rear and on the third floor.

"It is evident that the fire had burned for a considerable time before being discovered. It has further been determined that the fire started in the rear of the building and communicated upward through open shafts to the third floor and attic where it mushroomed and enveloped that entire area. No one escaped from the building from the stairway located at the southwest corner. The physical evidence shows that more burning occurred in that section on the ground floor. The cause has been listed as unknown at this time."

Work Starts On Station

Work began Tuesday on the suburban rural fire protection district station on S. 6th. The station will be located behind the old St. Francis market, now the Broadway market. The building is estimated to cost \$25,000, but officials say that the estimate is a conservative one.

The structure will have three stalls for equipment, with an apartment for the fire chief, dormitory quarters for seven firemen, and a recreation room. The exterior will be of clay tile with a brick veneer.

Immediate construction was made possible by the sale of \$50,000 in general obligation bonds to the First National bank of Portland. L. Alva Lewis, president of the district, said today that, weather permitting, the station should be completed in 90 days.

Fire fighting facilities will include one light truck fitted with pumps and fog equipment, and a heavier one for carrying water to areas where there are no hydrants.

The district covered by the fire plan covers an area twice the size of Klamath Falls. Lewis said that the cost to the taxpayer, based on assessed valuation of property, will be 4 mills or less.

Stork Brings 1350 Babies

The stork was a busy bird in 1947, bringing more than 1350 babies to Klamath county alone.

He doubled up on some deliveries, leaving three babies on one trip to a family here—the first triplets known to have been born in the county. Twelve times he delivered twins, six pairs of boys, three of girls and three mixed couples.

Some of his work was a little haphazard. With slight thought to location he left two babies at Cresdel lodge on two trips and one in a car en route to Klamath Falls from Bly.

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"Woman Of Year"



Mrs. Harlan P. Bosworth Jr., for many years a resident of Klamath Falls and now of Medford, was honored with the title, "Woman of the Year," when she was selected by the Soroptimist club last spring at its annual award dinner. Mrs. Bosworth was active in civic, school and social circles during her years' residence and her interest centered especially among young people.

Soft Coal Production Up

NEW YORK, Jan. 1 (AP)—When all the figures are in, the nation's soft coal production for 1947 is expected to exceed 616,000,000 tons, according to Ivan A. Given, editor of Iron Age. That would be the second best year in the history of the bituminous coal industry, and an increase of 78,000,000 tons over 1946.

The editor of the industry magazine says a major factor in the increased output is the sharp rise in overseas shipments—45,000,000 tons. That would be a drop of some four per cent from the 1946 total of 60,501,000 tons.

Given predicts that 1948 production of bituminous coal, barring protracted work stoppages, will be good, perhaps as good as in 1947. If the weather returns to normal in 1948, he says anthracite should benefit from a substantial increase in demand.

Christmas Ship Due In February

PORTLAND, Jan. 1 (AP)—The Christmas ship will berth in Portland February 2-3 to load foodstuffs for Europe gathered in Oregon communities in the drive that has been extended to January 10.

State Chairman Ray Smith reported Medford has pledged two carloads of food and that at McMinnville the people are trying to raise \$5000 for the purchase of canned milk.

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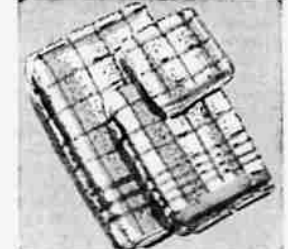


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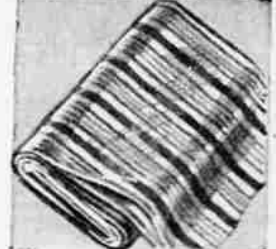
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We also want to thank you for your patronage and for your patience and understanding throughout the year which has just come to a close. Our hope for 1948 is that we may continue to merit your business and your priceless goodwill.

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