

### Citizens of Fire-Razed Town Spunkily Face Rebuilding Job

HYNDMAN, Pa., Dec. 27 (AP)—The fire which leveled this mountain community's business section has forged a new spirit of civic pride in Hyndman.

That became apparent today as merchants, town officials and businessmen started to lay plans for a new and better town.

The Christmas Eve fire burned out three blocks of the center of town. The bank, 12 other business buildings, about 20 homes and the post office were reduced to twisted, charred wreckage.

An unofficial estimate of damage compiled by businessmen placed it at around \$1,000,000—a staggering amount for a town of about 1500 population.

But Hyndman has not bowed to fate.

**'Better Town'**  
"We are going to build a better town than we ever had before," Charles O. Burns, cashier of the burned-out bank declared.

"The fire has bound the community together," George Keller, principal of the local high school said. "It is really amazing. Everyone is helping."

The high school was not damaged by the fire. Emergency relief headquarters were set up there.

Keller said "I do not know of a single person who is not doing all he can. We now have a closely-knit town."

"For years I've been trying to get folks to think about remodeling our school. In the past two days, there have been residents helping out here who have never seen the inside of the school before."

"Now they are talking about a new high school building."

Merchants were talking about getting construction of new stores and offices underway immediately.

"The bank will reopen in a new temporary headquarters tomorrow. It has engaged an expert to open the vault, standing alone in the burned-out area. It contained about \$12,000 in cash."

**Clean-up**  
Clean-up work started while smoke was still rising from the blackened debris.

The Red Cross moved into this Southwestern Pennsylvania town to help in the big job ahead.

Hyndman has been declared a Red Cross disaster area.

Food, clothing, furniture and other items to help the town back on its feet are being distributed by Red Cross workers.

Assistant Director Andrew M. Gregg of the Red Cross' Eastern area disaster service, said that those who owned their own homes would be eligible for reconstruction grants.

**Yule Tragedy**  
The fire started when a Christmas tree in the home of Sommers Fisher blazed up. Fisher's wife, Corrine, 60, was trapped and died in the fire. Fisher was burned badly and is in serious condition at Memorial hospital in nearby Cumberland, Md.

The blaze swept quickly through the old buildings that made up the heart of the town.

**AIRLINE RECORD**  
SEATTLE, Dec. 27 (AP)—The best year ever. That was the report by Croil Hunter, president and general manager of Northwest Airlines, for the first 11 months of 1947.

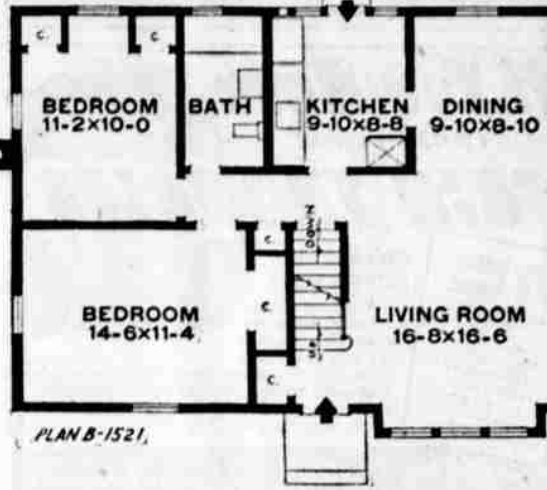
Hunter said the line carried 711,915 passengers through November 30, slightly better than 111,000 more than the year before.

## HOMES FOR AMERICANS



AP Newfeatures

A SMART PLAN for economical construction, this layout can be given a variety of external treatments. Two of four facade designs are shown here. This is plan B-1521 by Alwin Cassens, Jr., architect, 116-55 Queens Boulevard, Forest Hills, N. Y. It covers an area of 928 square feet and has an additional 356 square feet of floor space upstairs. With basement it has a content of 20,416 cubic feet. The simple rectangle of this plan, broken only by its large protruding picture window, keeps building costs down. A sheltered entrance is provided by the wide roof overhang in front.



### M'Arthur OKs Funds for Nip Fleet Program

TOKYO, Dec. 27 (AP)—General MacArthur today gave the Japanese government permission to spend 8,000,000,000 yen (nearly \$24,000,000) to build up Nippon's merchant marine.

Earlier the allied occupation commander announced private imports will be restored in Japan on New Year's Day.

The merchant marine program provides for the construction of 270,000 gross tons in new ships and the conversion of 272,000 gross tons of war time vessels to ocean going merchant ships.

**U.S. Step**  
MacArthur's headquarters said the release of funds for the shipping was part of a general program to rehabilitate Japanese shipping and reduce the cost of imports.

Occupation sources have long argued that if Japan could import and export under her own steam the United States could reduce its spending in Japan. The cost of goods brought to Japan in American ships has been estimated at 19 per cent for freight.

Before the war Japan had a merchant fleet estimated at between 8,000,000 and 8,000,000 gross tons. Her fleet today is estimated at 1,839,000 tons.

In authorizing private imports, MacArthur took the final step in returning Japan's foreign trade to private hands. Exports were put on a private basis on Dec. 1.

The general has authorized transfer to Japanese government control \$67,000,000 of foreign exchange in U.S. dollars and pounds sterling.

In addition MacArthur approved the release of \$833,000 for loans to small businesses.

### Yule Blaze Kills Four Little Girls

HAMBURG, Germany, Dec. 27 (AP)—Four little girls have died after their dresses caught fire from the candle-lit Christmas tree at a German orphanage party, police at Buechen, Lower Saxony, reported today.

The children were between eight and 12 years of age.

Police said the orphans and other children staged the Christmas play "Snowflake" on Christmas Eve. The little girls wore cotton costumes as snowflakes. One of them caught her costume afire from the Christmas tree and ran screaming among the other tots.

Altogether six girls' dresses blazed.

Two girls died on Christmas Day and two others yesterday.

### Services Schedule Arctic Training

WASHINGTON, Dec. 27 (AP)—Training for work under simulated Arctic conditions will be given more than 800 naval reserve engineers and Seabees during the next three months at the army's Camp Hale, high up in Colorado.

The reservists, coming from states west of the Mississippi, will get their training in three groups of 275 men each, with the first group going into camp January 14 for a two-week course.

Army experts will show the naval reservists the special technique needed if a war should be fought in the Far North, including the use of sled trains, plows, and living and working out-of-doors when the thermometer is below zero.

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**CLEARANCE—MEN'S SWEATERS**  
Fancy stripes and bold patterns! 100% wools, slipover styles! Final closeout price. **3.00**

**CLEARANCE—WOMEN'S BLOUSES**  
Tailored dressy styles mostly white. Ideal for school or office wear. Rayon fabrics. Sizes 32 to 40. **1.50**

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**BOYS' WARM JACKETS REDUCED**  
Just a few more left. Warm 100% wools in bright plaids and heavy water repellent duck fabric—hooded style. Broken sizes 5 to 14. **3.88**

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Just a few left at this special low price. Elastic brief style. S-M-L. Also a small group of rayon jersey slips. **88c**

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- 1941 FORD TUDOR A real good car. Good rubber. **\$520**
- 1939 PLYMOUTH TUDOR Radio and heater. **\$410**
- 1938 Plymouth Sedan **\$265**
- 1937 Ford "60" Coupe **\$185**
- 1932 Ford "B" Tudor **\$125**

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