

Grief-Stricken Mourners Pay Respect To Sisters

By JAN HARTNETT

CHICAGO (AP)—Some 1,200 grief-stricken mourners paid final respects today at a requiem mass for three nuns who died in the fire at Our Lady of the Angels school Monday.

Archbishop Albert Gregory Meyer celebrated the mass for the three Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary who died valiantly to save their charges.

Eighty-seven pupils perished, and 72 survivors are in hospitals. Sixteen are in critical condition.

Six hundred nuns attended the mass, including many of various other orders of the Roman Catholic Church. In the first six pews in the front of the church knelt the sorrowing relatives of the fire victims. About 150 knelt in front pews on the right side of the church near the charred school building.

An honor guard of firemen and policemen watched as the coffins bearing the bodies of Sisters Mary St. Canice Lyng, 44; Mary Seraphica Kelley, 43; and Clare Therese Champagne, 26, were borne from the convent across the street to the church.

Nuns, relatives, clergymen, children who escaped the fire and women wearing babushkas, wept audibly for the dedicated who were their friends and counselors in life.

The tragic fire was the first in the 125-year history of the Sisters of Charity to claim a sister or a pupil as its victim. In 1870, a small building which then served as the community's motherhouse in Dubuque, Iowa, was destroyed by fire, but it caused no fatalities. The sisters since have offered daily prayer that they might be spared against fire.

The nun fire victims will rest in Mount Carmel Cemetery.

A mass funeral for some 28 of the 87 child victims will be held Friday in an armory in the Northwest Side neighborhood still stunned by the tragedy.

Archbishop Meyer again will wing the mass. Francis Cardinal Spellman has wired from New York that he will attend.

Other bereaved parents will bury their dead in simple, sep-

arate rites, many in the church for which the school was named. Seventy-two other persons remain in hospitals with injuries. Fourteen were critical.

Even as the mass was to be sung, investigators continued their probe into the cause of the fire.

A top fire expert, Sgt. Drew Brown, head of the police arson squad, issued a report concluding the fire sprang from a smoldering rubbish pile in a northeast stairwell and then raced up the wooden staircase.

But he could not say what started the fire.

"We have not ruled out arson," said Fire Commissioner Robert J. Quinn. He said he also believes the source of the flames was a rubbish pile. "But there is a possibility that a discarded cigarette or a match was a cause. It is something we may never know."

Mayor Richard J. Daley said as fire inspectors from Chicago and other cities toured the ruins of the school: "We will make sure it will never happen again."

"When the investigations of the fire are ended, all necessary steps will be taken to protect our children. All the facilities of the city will be thrown into this."

In his report, Brown said he made an inch-by-inch study of the source of the flames in the U-shaped building this account:

A smoldering pile of rubbish at the foot of a wooden stairwell generated heat which accumulated until it broke a basement window four feet above the rubbish pile. The smoldering trash was fanned into flames which quickly shot up the unenclosed stairwell to the second (top) floor. Most of the fatalities occurred there.

Investigators said old examinations, books and newspapers had been stacked at the foot of the staircase.

A schoolboy sneaking a smoke and then tossing away the cigarette was one popular theory.

Coroner Walter McCarron announced plans to summon city, county, and state officials, safety engineers, architects and construction experts for an inquest next Wednesday before a blue-ribbon jury.

Arizona Police Seek Killer Of Millionaire And Wife

PHOENIX, Ariz. (AP)—Millionaire gambler Gus Greenbaum and his wife Bess were found dead in their Phoenix home Wednesday. Both had been killed with a nine-inch butcher knife.

Today, police scrutinized the past of Greenbaum for a clue. They have not established a motive, but officers said there was nothing to indicate the deaths were underworld assassinations.

Greenbaum, who had been ill recently, was 65. His wife was 64. He was president and part owner of the Riviera Hotel, the El Cortez Hotel and the Las Vegas Club in Las Vegas, Nev.

Although a three-carat diamond ring worn by Greenbaum was missing, Detective Capt. Orme Moorehead said other valuables were untouched. There was no sign of forcible entry to the house.

He said the couple apparently was slain Tuesday evening. Their maid discovered the bodies Wednesday afternoon.

Police reconstructed the crime this way:

Greenbaum was watching television in his bedroom. His wife

had left to drive the maid home. The killer or killers entered, and killed Greenbaum with the knife, taken from the kitchen. When his wife returned, she slugged, bound and killed her. Her body was found face down on a couch about 50 feet away from her husband's bedroom. Her hands were tied behind her back with one of her husband's neckties.

Greenbaum, a native of Chicago, came to Phoenix 25 years ago with two brothers and founded a book-making dynasty that crumbled in a 1946 police crackdown. He then acquired interests in several Las Vegas establishments, including the Flamingo Hotel, built by mobster Bugsy Siegel. Siegel was slain by underworld bullets in 1947.

Greenbaum sold his interest in the Flamingo in 1954 for a reported nine million dollars.

The Greenbaums had one child, Mrs. Harold Tenenbaum, wife of a Phoenix insurance executive.

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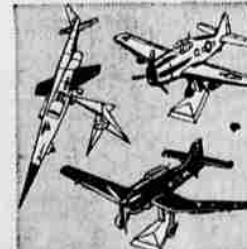
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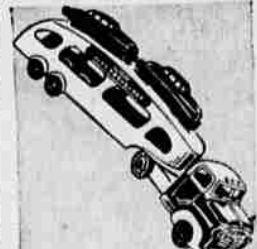
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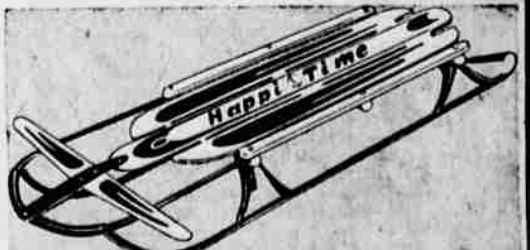
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