

Power Failure Hits NY; Heat Blamed

NEW YORK (AP) — Lights flickering off in hospital operating rooms. Elevator service knocked out in huge apartment buildings. Packed subways, with a sweating human cargo, trapped in underground tunnels.

That was the picture as a sudden power failure struck the heart of Manhattan.

The power failure hit thousands of buildings in a 300-block section of upper Manhattan, leaving a half million people without elevators, air conditioning, traffic

lights, or any of the complex systems that keep a great city functioning smoothly.

The power failure began in mid-afternoon Monday. Gradual restoration continued into the early morning hours today.

Power was completely restored to the area at 2:42 a.m. today, almost 13 hours after it went off.

The mercury was near 90 when power went off and the humidity was suffocating. Suddenly every intersection became a traffic jam.

Then the recovery began. In hospitals, emergency lights came on. Extra police poured into the area, straightened out the traffic.

Police sent emergency generators to Mount Sinai Hospital, where nine polio-patients in iron lungs depended on auxiliary power.

Subways, which have independent power but were stopped when signal lights went out, began to crawl, as workers with red lanterns signalled the way was clear ahead.

Apartment dwellers began to find how it feels to climb stairs.

Then darkness came, and New Yorkers in the stricken area saw the eerie spectacle of a city without lights.

In hospitals, they faced the problem of getting expectant mothers to delivery rooms without elevators. At least one child was delivered in the beam of a flashlight.

But New York night life went on. Bartenders bought candles by the dozen, and complained because the beer was warm.

Children, when they found the television and radio sets wouldn't work, enjoyed the novelty of seeing candle flames flickering along Broadway.

Bank vaults wouldn't close, and extra guards were assigned. At a radio station disc jockeys had a

field day. The turntables were knocked out, so no records could be played, and the listeners were treated to one, long, continuous line of chatter.

Meanwhile 10,000 employees of the Consolidated Edison Co. labored to repair the damage to power lines, apparently caused by a record demand made by refrigerating and other cooling devices.

Extra police were assigned to Central Park, which stretches through the middle of the darkened area. More patrolmen walked the shadowed streets, lit only by the headlights of passing cars.

In all, 3,000 extra police were sent into the blacked-out section. Hours later, as power began to come back on, police reported only one burglary and one assault case.

The blacked-out section stretched across the island of Manhattan, from the Hudson River to the East River. On the West Side it ran the length of Central Park, from 39th to 119th sts., and on the East Side from 74th to 110th.

People thronged onto the streets, rather than climb stairs to stuffy apartments with electric stoves that wouldn't work. Stores had a run on candles and flashlights. Children hawked penny apiece. One shop owner sold 3,500 candles in two hours.

The American Broadcasting Co.'s television network was knocked off the air for 24 minutes, and newsmen worked by candlelight in the ABC newsroom. Several live TV programs were canceled.

Many restaurants and bars, hampered by lack of refrigeration and ice, closed down at dark. Others kept open and served by candlelight.

Jukeboxes and television sets were out, and in bars and apartments, New Yorkers were thrown back on their conversational resources.

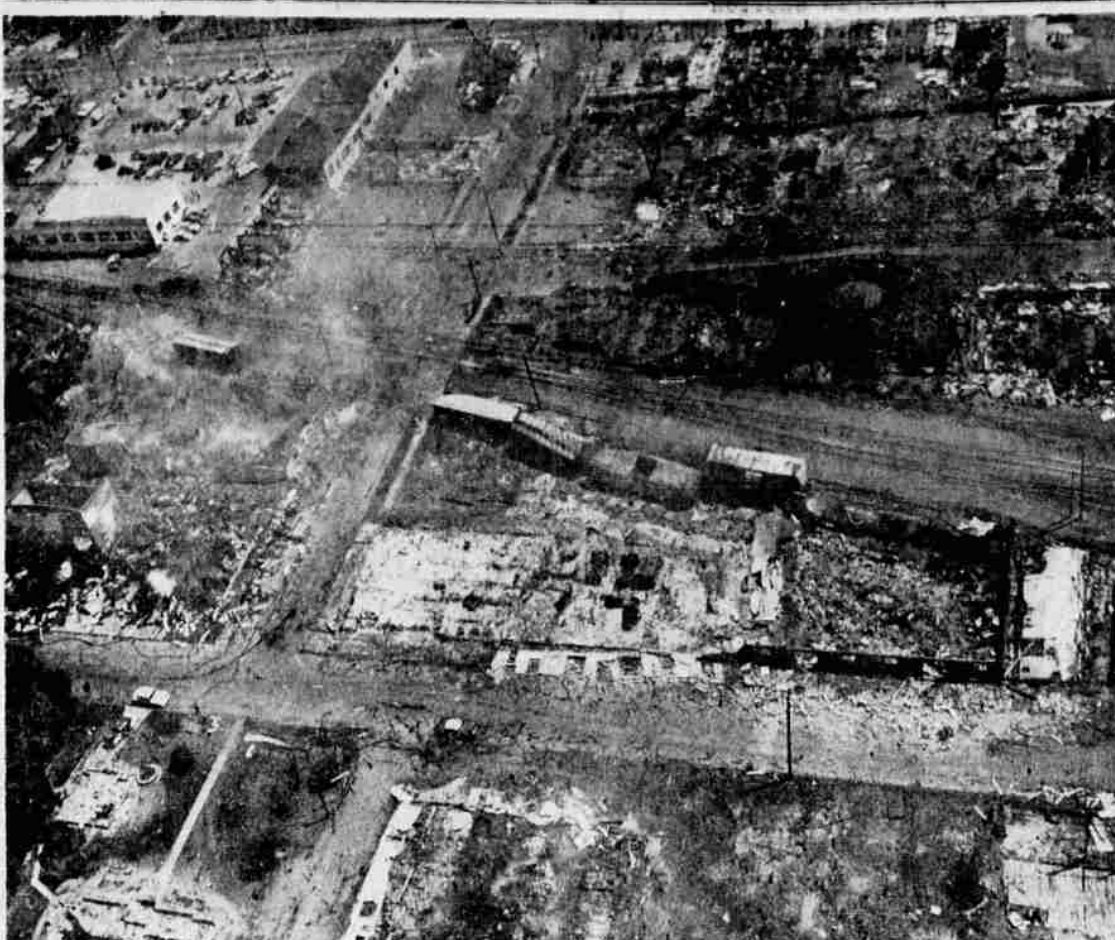
Movie theaters emptied when the power failed, but little groups of people gathered outside the darkened houses.

In front of one theater, a man entertained by playing tinkling tunes on glasses and cups.

People gathered around newsstands, and bought papers to read about the failure. Many went down to subway platforms, supplied by independent power, and read papers in the weak, yellow light.

A physician summed up the feeling of many people when he stepped from his pitch-black East Side apartment house.

"It looks," he said, "like a part of the city has died."



THE TREMENDOUS DEVASTATION wrought by the explosion of the dynamite-ammonium nitrate truck in Roseburg can be seen by this aerial view of the explosion spot. The round hole in the middle of the picture is the spot where the explosive truck stood. The picture was taken by Tommy Esslinger, Copco employe in Roseburg, several days after the blast.

MILTON TO VISIT PAN-AM GETTYSBURG, Pa. (UPI) — President Eisenhower's brother, Dr. Milton Eisenhower, will represent the White House at the opening of the Pan American Games in Chicago Aug. 27, the Gettysburg White House said. The President was forced to cancel his appearance because of his scheduled trip to Western Europe, Aug. 26.

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"DENNIS THE MENACE"

"I MAY GO LIVE WITH MRS. WILSON! SHE LIKES LITTLE BOYS!"

Breakthrough Predicted

WASHINGTON (AP)— A possible breakthrough in the search for a way to harness an H-bomb reaction for peaceful purposes has been reported by the Naval Research Laboratory.

Dr. W. R. Faust, who described the work Monday, was cautious in appraising it but said it was a step forward.

The problem in harnessing the H-bomb reaction comes in heating heavy hydrogen gas to a tremendous temperature — in this case 28 million degrees — until its atoms fuse and release energy, and then containing the gas long enough for the fusion to take place.

Faust said Dr. Alan Kolb succeeded in containing the gas longer than previously reported for such a high density gas.

Ping Pong Ball Chokes Boy, 2

BELLMAWR, N.J. (AP)—Larry Weisenbach, 2, suffocated Monday when a ping pong ball became stuck in his throat.

The boy was rushed to West Jersey Hospital in Camden after a fire rescue squad had removed the ball with forceps.

Three doctors opened the boy's chest and massaged his heart. After nearly two hours, they pronounced him dead.

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Slay Victim Name Sought

LAYTONVILLE (UPI) — The Mendocino County sheriff's office issued an all-points bulletin today for information that might help identify a murder victim discovered beside U.S. 101 north of here.

The body, stripped of all identification, was found early Monday by a passing motorist.

Sheriff-coroner Reno Bartolome said the body was that of a man in his mid-50s, 6 feet 5 inches tall, and weighing 205 pounds. The victim had a handkerchief in his pocket with the laundry mark "Hart" stamped on it, Bartolome said. Several dollars in change were found in the man's pocket.

Bartolome said the victim was struck behind the ear with a sharp instrument. He said there was evidence the body had been dragged a few feet, probably from an automobile.

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