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SEVEN CENTS

United States Explodes Initial Rocket-Borne Thermonuclear Device

Pryor Manager Of Valparaiso District

Michael J. Pryor, the gas company's Decatur manager, has been promoted to manager of Northern Indiana Public Service company's Valparaiso district, Dean H. Mitchell, NIPSCO's chairman and president announced today. He will succeed Morris Groverman, Jr., who has been appointed to head the company's southern division.

As the new Valparaiso manager, Pryor will supervise the gas and electric operations of the district which serves industrial, commercial, residential, rural and REMC customers in Porter, Starke and La Porte counties.

Commenting on Pryor's promotion, Mitchell said, "Mike Pryor is typical of the kind of young men we like to count as members of our management team. His enthusiasm, skill and resourcefulness in supervising utility operations are invaluable assets to our company. His splendid record of service and dedication to serving our customers and his community have prepared him well for the greater responsibilities of serving our customers in the Valparaiso district."

Born in Calumet City, Ill., Pryor is a veteran of World War II in which he served with the United States Air Force as a flight officer, bomber pilot and pilot instructor. He attended Kent State and Purdue universities, majoring in electrical engineering, and joined NIPSCO in 1946 as a lighting engineer. He was promoted to manage the utility's Decatur office in 1952.

Active in his community, the new Valparaiso district manager has devoted a great deal of his spare time to mental health work in Adams county. Now serving as vice president of the National Foundation and president of the Adams county mental health association,



M. J. Pryor

Pryor was recently appointed to the board of the adult psychiatric clinic of Northeast Indiana. He is past president of the Decatur Rotary club, member of the Knights of Columbus and the Elks, and has served as drive chairman of the governor's citizens advisory committee for youth.

Pryor and his wife, Pat, have two girls—Pamela, 6, and Patricia, 4. They will move to Valparaiso in the near future.

A successor to Pryor in Decatur has not yet been named.

Defendants Winners In Court's Ruling

A requested judgment of \$4,500 by the Decatur Kocher Lumber Co. was turned down by Judge Myles F. Parrish in a ruling handed down Saturday by the Adams circuit court judge.

The lumber company had requested a judgment of \$3,964.50, plus interest and attorney fees, which amounted to \$4,500, but Judge Parrish handed down a ruling Saturday that the company receive nothing from the defendants Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence W. Ehrsam.

In his written judgment, the judge gives one reason for turning down the plaintiff's request, on the grounds that the "defendants herein have answered in payment."

Paid In Full

The judgment states that at the trial the defendant's exhibit "N" was introduced into evidence, and that it was a receipt from the lumber company, which at that time was known as the Kocher Lumber and Coal company.

The receipt was dated October 19, 1959, and was marked "pd in full." The defendant's exhibit "O" was in a check made payable to the lumber company for the sum of \$4,348.35, and it too bore a notation—"pd in full."

The lumber company had filed the court action, alleging that the Ehrsam's owed the company a total of \$3,964.50, plus interest and attorney fees which amounted to the requested \$4,500.

The judgment states that "a written receipt is evidence of a high character. It is evidence of so satisfactory a character as not to be overcome, except by clear and convincing testimony, and the burden of proof as a matter of course rests upon the one attacking it."

Other Reasons

The four-page judgement also explains that the plaintiff failed (Continued on Page Eight)

HONOLULU (UPI)—The United States exploded the first rocket-borne high altitude thermonuclear device in a test shot Sunday night between 200 to 500 miles above Johnston Island in the Pacific in what is believed to be the biggest shot of its kind ever made by this country.

The biggest previous shot ever made was the explosion of the hydrogen bomb at Bikini Island in 1954, but that was not at a high altitude. A high altitude test of a nuclear device two years ago was not as big as Sunday night's, and was not made with a thermonuclear device.

"I saw that one," said United Press International correspondent Robert C. Miller, "and it lighted up less than 35 to 40 per cent of the sky. The one last night was horizon to horizon. It was fan-tastic."

Miller said it would be like comparing the blast from a 22-caliber rifle to one from a 12-gauge shotgun.

The blast, equal to a million or more tons of TNT, occurred at 11 p.m. HST (4 a.m. Monday CDT). The nuclear warhead was carried aloft by a Thor rocket, the same type missile that forced Joint Task Force 8 to destroy the rockets shortly after launch on the two previous tries.

The device exploded with a flash that painted the Hawaiian sky green and left spectators awestruck.

The official JTF 8 announcement at 11:30 p.m. said: "A nuclear family, especially bed clothing, and device carried aloft by a Thor missile was detonated at a height of hundreds of kilometers at 11 p.m. HST. The detonation was in the megaton range."

Broadcast Bands Out

The blast set off air raid sirens in parts of the Hawaiian island chain and blacked out short wave broadcast bands such as Radio Tokyo and Radio Australia.

Radio Tokyo was still out a half hour after the blast but Radio Australia was back on the air.

The explosion was denounced by Moscow radio as a "crime" committed by "American atom-mongers."

"All mankind has angrily protested the blast," it said.

In Washington, atomic experts said they expect little if any radioactive fallout from the explosion. Some of the debris, perhaps as much as half, might be hurled free of the earth's gravitational field and wind up wandering through space in long orbits around the sun.

Part of what is left may remain above the weather regions of the atmosphere so long and be dispersed so widely that it will be comparatively harmless by the time it comes down, it was believed.

Variety of Colors

Nearly an hour after the blast, an aurora-like effect which had been anticipated was observed on the island of Maui. The gigantic V-shaped spectacle changed from yellow to dull red to icy blue and finally white during a 25-minute period.

On the two previous aborted tests, the nuclear devices plunged into the ocean without detonation. The first failure occurred June 3 and was blamed on a malfunction in tracking equipment. The second, which came June 19, was due to a malfunction in the rocket which was blasted to bits seconds after launching.

Witnesses in Honolulu said that after the initial green flash the sky glowed red, gradually fading to a sunset pink, which remained for about seven minutes. The blast obliterated the stars from the sky and the moon was eerily centered amid the changing color patterns.

Spectators, after a few seconds of silence, reacted with awe and disbelief.

"I was taking a picture," said Roger Coryell, an aide to Gov. (Continued on Page Eight)

INDIANA WEATHER

Fair and cooler tonight.

Tuesday mostly sunny. Low

tonight mostly in 50s north, 55

to 62 south. High Tuesday 74

to 82. Sunset today 8:15 p. m.

Sunrise Tuesday 5:26 a. m.

Outlook for Wednesday: Fair

and a little warmer. Low

Tuesday night 55 to 65, high

Wednesday 85 to 92.

BULLETIN

GENEVA (UPI)—The 14-nation conference reached an East-West compromise today and endorsed a declaration of neutrality by the new Laotian neutralist government.

13 Killed In Water Mishaps

By United Press International

At least 13 persons, the highest of the season, died in Indiana water accidents during the 54-hour weekend.

The latest victim was a Seymour-area man whose body was recovered from White River near Rockford this morning.

The body of Stanley Stout, 19, was recovered by State Police scuba divers from about seven feet of water. Stout and four companions were wading along the river bank late Sunday when he drowned.

Since Thursday, at least 17 persons died in Hoosier water mishaps.

Noble Fay Anthony, 21, Kokomo, drowned when he was seized with cramps while water-skiing at Lake Shafer north of Monticello.

Thomas Curry, 20, Muncie, drowned while wading with a waist-type ring buoy at Morse Reservoir north of Noblesville. Authorities said he took the buoy off shortly before stepping off an underwater shelf.

Jesse Adams, 12, Mount Vernon, drowned in the Ohio River near his home. Witnesses said he was about six feet from shore when he stepped into a deep hole.

Harold Hall, 13, Sunman, drowned in a small lake near Morris Friday night when he slipped from a rubber inner tube while floating in the middle of the half-acre lake.

Clarence Wafford, 75, a retired Dearborn County farmer, drowned in a creek near the Versailles State Park when he fell from a log while fishing Friday.

Police also reported the recovery Saturday of the bodies of Bernard Vaughn, 11, and Keith Smith, 12, both of Mishawaka, who drowned while swimming in the St. Joseph River at Mishawaka Friday night.

The body of Arlie Keller, 30, Lafayette, was pulled from the Wabash River near Lafayette Saturday afternoon, and the body of his daughter, Barbara, 16 months, was recovered Sunday.

The two were missing late Thursday after a homemade flatboat they were aboard capsized. Five other persons aboard the boat made it to safety.

The victims were Howard Mead, 49, operator of the 12-foot alumini-

num boat; Mead's nephew, Donald Eugene Sowles, 22, and Sowles' 5-year-old niece, Melinda Sowles, all of Fort Wayne.

The remaining nine, eight of them children, were able to swim or wade to safety, aided by relatives ashore. Noble County Sheriff Russell Lindsey said the boat was built to carry only three persons.

The survivors told authorities the boat was enroute to a grocery store about half a mile across the lake to get more provisions for a picnic.

Three other drownings occurred Saturday.

Noble Fay Anthony, 21, Kokomo, drowned when he was seized with cramps while water-skiing at Lake Shafer north of Monticello.

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Interior Of Evans Home Is Destroyed

The entire interior of the Fred Evans home south of Decatur was completely destroyed by a Saturday morning fire, and nearly all the family belongings were lost in the sudden blaze.

The home was ravaged by a blaze that completely gutted the inside of the house, destroying all furniture, household items and clothing of the Evans family.

The fire broke out in a closet in the downstairs bedroom, located on the south side of the building, and quickly spread to other rooms in the home. Both the Decatur and Monroe fire departments battled the blaze for nearly an hour, and finally brought the fire under control in time to save the outer shell of the house.

Evans, an employee of the Citizens Telephone Co., his wife and four boys reside on route 2, two miles south of Decatur on U.S. 27.

Mrs. Evans had opened the closet door and the flames burst out, jumped to the ceiling and quickly spread throughout the house. The blaze had a big start on the two fire departments before they arrived, at about 10 o'clock Saturday morning.

Mrs. Wanda Oelberg, executive secretary of the Adams county chapter of the American Red Cross, issued an urgent plea this morning for clothing for the Evans family, especially bed clothes, and any household items that Decatur and Adams county residents could give to the family.

Clothing Needed

The boys wear sizes two, four, six and 14 pants, and Mrs. Evans wears a size 12 dress. Fred Evans wears a size 12 dress and 32-inch waist pants.

Mrs. Oelberg has requested that clothing and furniture of any type be donated, by contacting her at the Red Cross office.

She also explained that bed clothing, such as sheets and pillowcases, are urgently needed.

What caused the blaze was still undetermined early this morning, but spontaneous combustion was considered as a possibility.

Building Saved

Quick work by the Decatur and Monroe firemen saved the building, but the departments had no chance to halt the fire spreading throughout the home.

All the furniture in the house, the television set, a wall-oak organ, and wall-to-wall carpeting, and all kitchen furniture and utensils were destroyed.

Evans was well covered by fire insurance, and an adjuster began work about 10:30 a.m. today in estimating the loss from the fire.

Evans, his wife, and one son, are currently residing with the Harold M. Sapp family, at 112 Elm street. The other three boys were taken to some relatives in Port Wayne to stay for a short time.

Evans was given the day off this afternoon and was attempting to find a furnished apartment for his family to live.

**City Without Water
Three-Hour Period**

Decatur was without water for a period of about three hours, and more than three hours in some areas, Saturday, while a 12-inch cross was being installed on a water main at Third and Jackson streets in the city.

The water was originally scheduled to be turned off at 8 a.m. and turned on again at 10 a.m. The first problem developed a short time before 8 o'clock Saturday morning, when hospital officials requested the city leave the water on since an emergency operation was scheduled for that time.

The operation was completed and the water turned off around 9:15 a.m., and some trouble at the scene of the excavation delayed the work for about an hour longer than was anticipated.

Values Cause Problem

Two valves failed to shut off properly and gave the workmen of the Baker and Schultz company, which installed the cross on the main, some trouble. The job was finished and the water turned on again at 12:15 p.m., only three hours later.

Mayor Donald Gage explained this morning, however, that many homes and businesses did not receive water until later in the afternoon, as the failure of the valves to shut off drained the city's water mains.

Once the water was turned on, the mains began to fill up and slowly, water began reaching the outlying areas.

Had Choice

The mayor explained that many local residents were puzzled at the time picked by the city to shut

(Continued on Page Eight)



GROUND BREAKING services were held Sunday morning at the Missionary church, beginning the construction of two additions which are to be built this summer. The Rev. Gerald I. Gerig, pastor, conducted the service. The first spade of dirt was turned over by Lawrence Von Gunten, chairman of the building committee. Additional spades of dirt were turned over by Mrs. Edward Summers, president of the Friendship circle; Mrs. Eugene Bean, president of the Ladies' Aid; Mrs. Mervin Roop, representing the children of the church; Mrs. Robert Reynolds, youth director, and Harold Myers, president of the Men's Missionary fellowship and assistant superintendent of the Sunday school. Construction is to begin next week.

Make Reservations For Weekend Tour

Six of 45 reservations have already been filled for the Decatur Daily Democrat-Erie-Lackawanna bargain summer weekend tour to New York City August 3-6, a check