

DEFECTIVE HEATING SYSTEM BLAMED IN SCHOOL BLAST; RITES HELD FOR 425 VICTIMS

Architect and Contractor Heard by Military Court of Inquiry; Day of Mourning Proclaimed by Governor.

(Continued from Page One)

The safety signs that read: "Drive Slow—We Love Our Children."

Governor's Proclamation
Governor Allred's proclamation said:

"Let us all enter into the House of the Lord, let us pray for those dear children and their teachers, let us entreat the Lord to bless them that mourn, to comfort the broken hearts of families and friends; let us reconsecrate ourselves to the faith of our fathers, and highly resolve that no such disaster shall ever again be visited upon any community or any home."

Gas Plant Substituted

It developed from Mr. Downing's testimony that the gas type of heating had not been specified in the architect's plans, but had been substituted by the School Board. Architects Deefe and White of Henderson and Houston, supervised the construction. The original plans, Mr. Downing said, called for a boiler and steam heating.

He said the change in plans was to effect an important saving in operating expenses. He outlined the ventilating system installed to carry off carbon monoxide from the radiators, but he said no steps were taken to carry off any leakage of live gas.

The ruins of the school had been cleared completely, the last pile of debris had been thoroughly checked and Col. Clarence Parker, director of the school grounds and its vicinity under martial law, placed the number of dead at 425.

Only a census of the migratory workers will establish the precise number of dead. Some bodies were mangled beyond any possibility of identification, and there were a number of fragments of bodies left—it was impossible to decide how many entities they once composed.

Of the 125 injured, 48 remained in hospitals today. Eight were in critical condition but physicians expect almost if not all of them to recover. Gradually, the hospitals were releasing more children with bandaged heads, and arms in slings, who walked the streets, living symbols of the tragedy.

Task Is Undramatic

The task of the experts was undramatic but of importance. They hoped to establish the exact reason why the natural gas accumulated in the building's basement exploded with enough force to demolish all its walls and dump its three floors and roof on top of the other.

The basement was a cavity beneath the 300-foot long building without windows or other opening to the outside, walled and paved with concrete. The explosive experts pointed out that it was comparable to the mass of children in a rifle bullet—it confined a high explosive, natural gas, as tightly as a brass case confines gun powder. Its detonator, of a nature unknown, when set off had the same result.

Dr. E. P. Shock, professor of Texas and the State's leading explosive expert, arrived yesterday

afternoon and thoroughly explored the ruins.

Arriving today were G. W. Jones of Pittsburgh, an expert on gas surface explosions, and three experts of the U. S. Bureau of Mines, D. J. Parker, Salt Lake City; H. B. Hill and Gustave Wade of Dallas.

Experts to Testify

They will testify before the military board of inquiry. Col. Parker said the session would be open, that its purpose was to establish the reason behind the explosion rather than to search for someone to blame. He explained that it was a military function to investigate thoroughly any occurrence or circumstances sufficiently disquieting to public order to invoke a proclamation of martial law.

Investigations of another order were undertaken by the Texas Insurance and Railroad Commissions, and committees of the Senate and House. They wished to prevent such tragedies in the future and also to determine if the explosion was due to negligence of any sort.

There was no disposition among the survivors to blame persons or circumstances. To the oil field workers the black crude and the natural gas they pipe up out of the earth carries with it nature's own protective devices against explosion—there is an odor of sulfur, a gas explosion are acts of God which no man can control, and they held only kind and sympathetic sentiments for William C. Shaw, the school's superintendent and responsible executive, whose own 17-year-old son was one of the victims.

Few Tears Shed

There were no tears shed today, not even by the women whose eyes have always been a succession of great prosperity and abject poverty as oil wells came in gushing or were depleted. In their best clothing, the men in silk shirts, they filed into the funeral parlors, sat there solemn but composed while a minister intoned "The Lord Is My Shepherd," then got into cars and followed the hearse to the cemetery. Later they will have snapshots of their dead children enlarged and tinted and framed in gilt and carry the pictures with them from field to field.

One family—the Williams—had three pink coffins in its living room, each containing the body of one of their three children. Four families purchased two coffins each.

Even more tragic than the plight of these parents, was the emotional state of the parents of children who beyond doubt were killed but whose bodies cannot be identified.

There were approximately 100 of these, and the parents of the missing dead went from morgue to morgue looking endlessly at frightfully mangled bodies, at the mothers carried scraps of the material from which their children's clothing had been made, hoping to identify their dead in that way. This method was reducing steadily the number of unidentified dead.

Though high officials of the companies had nothing to say publicly, it was understood that the school would be rebuilt immediately.

IN INDIANAPOLIS

MARRIAGE LICENSES

(Incorrect addresses frequently are given to the Marriage License Bureau deliberately. The Times is printing the official list assumes no responsibility for such addresses.)

Earl Gibson, 32, of 540 Massachusetts Ave., to Sarah Josephine Adams, 35, of 311 Birchwood Ave.
Leo James Shaffner, 21, of 423 1/2 E. 30th St., to Mildred Ellen Kaster, 18, of 415 S. Ritter Ave.
Donald Lee Hillock, 22, of Beech Grove, to Mildred W. Jelliff, 18, of Beech Grove.
Dave Friedman, 26, of 6143 Calumet Ave., to Minnie Jeffe, 44, of Indiana Ave.
Richard Mayer, 28, of 4224 Ford St., to Charlotte Steiner, 23, of 4948 W. Vermont St.

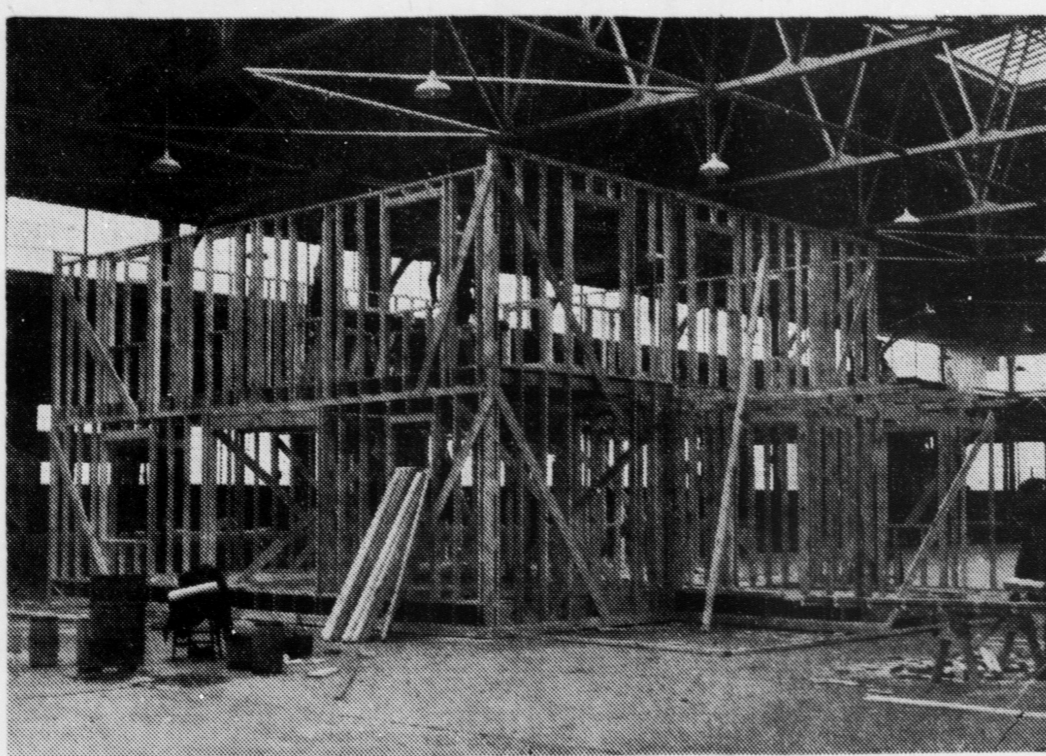
BIRTHS

Boys
Vesper, Mildred Johnston, at 825 Birch.
Martin, Viola Price, at 1738 Wadsworth.
Charles, Gertrude Purdy, at 1401 Silver.
Claire, Mary Burgess, at Methodist.
Fred, Helen Soudan, at Methodist.
Guy, Cecelia Sear, at Methodist.
Thorton, Florence Chandler, at St. Vincent's.
Ralph, Edna Long, at St. Vincent's.
John, Joyce Young, at St. Vincent's.
Joseph, Marian Edwards, at St. Vincent's.
James, Nora Maylan, at St. Vincent's.
Burt, Marion Payne, at St. Vincent's.
Kenneth, Gladys Rayburn, at St. Vincent's.
Girls
Charles, Louise Riley, at St. Vincent's.
Maurice, Aline Prantz, at St. Vincent's.
Marie, Katherine Prantz, at St. Vincent's.
Louis, Iva Tracy, at 232 Beech.
Joseph, Rose Gordon, at 2121 Station.
John, Anna Zove, at 3114 W. 9th.
William, Catherine McGowan, at 2116 E. Washington.
Fred, Elizabeth Parham, at 1520 Shepherd.
Ronald, Elizabeth Hillman, 1413 W. Henry.
Percy, Teresa Wynolda, at 311 S. Keyser.
Kenneth, Jeanne Mahurine, at 701 N. New Jersey.

Deaths
Charles Henry Guthrie, at Methodist.
Blaine, Harriet Miller, at Methodist.
Joseph, Dorothy Redding, at Methodist.
Roy, Beulah Hershey, at Methodist.
Robert, Ruth Wenzel, Methodist.
Maurice, Helen Lintz, at St. Vincent's.
Emil, Margaret Merz, at St. Vincent's.
Fred, Frances Sitt, at St. Vincent's.
Fred, Elmer Mahoney, at St. Vincent's.
Frederick, Louise Zuhlik, at St. Vincent's.
William, Ann West, at St. Vincent's.
William, Betty Fairfield, at 1284 Naomi.
Frederick, Christian Butler, at 1238 N. La Salle.
Alice, Alice Park, at 2779 Parker.
William, Janie Jones, at 1053 N. Belmont.
Robert, Genevieve Harper, at 2218 N. Arsenal.
Edward, Helen Giffel, at 233 S. Trowbridge.
Grant, Viola McCombs, at 321 W. 14th.
Hayden, Amelia Martin, at 208 Concord.
Ernest, Susie Wilson, at 552 Drovers.
Cornelius, Maude Greer, at 206 Hovey.
John, Missie Bean, at 724 E. Michigan.
William, Gertrude Tucker, at 1901 S. Pershing.
Oliver, Clotie Williams, at 3021 Martin.

Deaths
Donald Cook, 8, at Riley, Hodgkins disease.
Nora Flynn Sweeney, 68, at 1224 N. Dearborn, cerebral hemorrhage.
William H. Lyman, 66, at 5828 College, mitral stenosis.
James Gabe, 49, at Veterans, lobar pneumonia.
William Patterson, 36, at City, general peritonitis.
Ruth Harris, 62, at 963 1/2 W. Washington, cerebral hemorrhage.
Kenneth Daniel Gordon, 29, at City, lobar pneumonia.
Harry C. Garland, 44, at City, fractured skull.
Roy Hickman, 31, at Methodist, tuberculous meningitis.
Barbara Harrison, 63, at 922 E. Raymond, fractured femur.
Emily B. Brenton, 83, at 1338 S. Michigan, cardiac valvular renal disease.
Russell Wilson, 37, at City, hemorrhage.

Work Is Rushed on Model Home



The outer shell of the 1937 Model Home, centerpiece of the 16th annual Indianapolis Home Show, is being erected in the Manufacturers' Building at the State Fair Grounds. The house is to be completed and furnished for the show opening April 15. It is to reflect the composite ideas of 1000 women.

Tended Family Grave 30 Years; Laid to Rest With Loved Ones

Inscription on Fourth Headstone Completed as Last Rites Are Held Up for Patrick Cannon.

FOR years, visitors at Holy Cross Cemetery have envied the well-kept grave plot of the Cannon family, where Patrick Cannon was buried today.

"How well-trimmed and neat," was their comment. There were four headstones, one marked "Patrick Cannon, 1862-19—". A floral urn, heaped high with flowers, usually added color to the scene.

Frequently an aged man, pushing a water cart, would be near the graves, sprinkling them in drought or shearing the grassy slopes. This would be Mr. Cannon. If one talked to him he would say in Killarney brogue: "My wife and three children are buried here. I keep their graves. It gives me something to do and I can be near them. Sure and I've been doing it for 30 years now. I never use a lawnmower, just the shears. They are nearer to me when it's well trimmed."

TODAY stone-masons prepared to fill out the one headstone "Patrick Cannon, 1862-19—". Mr. Cannon, caretaker of his own grave-plot, died Wednesday night after a short illness.

Requiem mass was celebrated today at St. John's Church. Survivors are two daughters, Mrs. George Young and Mrs. George McCombs; and a son, Joseph Cannon. Mr. Cannon had lived with Mrs. Young at 2305 S. Meridian-St.

PWA ACCEPTS BIDS FOR CHARLESTOWN

Contracts for the Charlestown, Ind., waterworks have been approved by the Public Works Administration, State Director F. M. Logan said today. The distribution system contract was awarded to the Pittsburgh-Des Moines Steel Co., Des Moines, at a bid of \$51,595, and the elevated tank contract to W. E. Caldwell Co., Louisville, on a bid of \$7896.

LIBRARY TO EXHIBIT RELICS OF OLD MAYA

Collection Is Loaned by C. O. Warnock.

Relics of Maya and related cultures, loaned by C. O. Warnock, 4324 Park Ave., are to be exhibited at the Public Library, starting Sunday and continuing through April 12. The collection includes curved knives made of black, volcanic glass and once used in sacrificial rites. A small clay figure strapped to a sacrificial table also is to be shown.

Mr. Warnock, credited with possessing one of the finest collections of its kind, now is in Mexico seeking new objects and new knowledge of such civilization.

Miss Mary Cain of the library staff has completed a bibliography on Mayan material which is available for reading along with magazine articles and books.

TRAVELERS TO HEAR MEXICO DESCRIBED

Indianapolis Council 4, United Commercial Travelers of America, is to entertain members and guests at 8 o'clock tonight in the Women's Department Club Building, 17th and Meridian Sts.

Motion pictures depicting pioneer Indiana are to be shown, and Otto W. Cox is to describe "Scenes Around Mexico City, Mexico."

ORPHAN FILM SCHEDULED

A motion picture, showing scenes at Bellefonte, Jewish Orphan Home, Cleveland, O., is to be given by Indianapolis lodge, B'nai B'rith, Monday night in Kirschbaum Community Center. Richard P. Eryomson, lodge president, is to preside.

CLAIMS STATE REFUSES HELP

Spencer Charges Lack of Co-operation in Cancilla Case.

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Spencer said after a meeting with Mr. Northam. "I'm going out right now to a plenty good law library and determine just what I can do." Earlier the prosecutor said he was of the opinion that an order to dissolve the injunction could be obtained in the State Supreme Court.

AMERICAN MEDICAL GROUP HEAD TO TALK

Dr. Heyd to Address Parley of State Secretaries.

Dr. Charles Gordon Heyd, New York, president of the American Medical Association, is to speak at a banquet of the Indiana State Medical Association's annual secretaries' conference in the Columbia Club tomorrow night.

The banquet is to follow an afternoon meeting at which national and state authorities in the field of medical economics are to speak. Guests at the affair are to include Dr. Olin West, Chicago, general manager of the national association, and Dr. Austin Heyden, Chicago, secretary of the board of trustees.

BATTON RENAMED TO STATE FINANCIAL JOB

Townsend Picks Two Local Men for Board.

Robert R. Batton, Marion attorney, today was renamed chairman of the Financial Institutions Board by Governor Townsend.

At the same time the Governor announced four new appointees of the board. They were: William F. Flynn, Indianapolis Democrat, vice president of the Indiana National Bank; Frank McKinney, Indianapolis Democrat, president of the Fidelity Trust Co.; Spencer Herrell, Shelbyville Republican, engaged in small loan business, and Vincent Vaughn, Lafayette Republican, an attorney.

They are to replace O. P. Welborn, Indianapolis; H. B. Hartscock, Indianapolis; Myron H. Gray, Muncie, and C. M. Setser, Columbus.

Robert A. McKinley recently was named director of the Department of Financial Institutions.

COUNTY HEALTH UNIT EXPANSION OUTLINED

Expansion of county and district health units as a means of raising Indiana health standards was explained by Dr. John W. Ferree of the State Health Board at the Indiana Health Council meeting in the Hotel Lincoln yesterday.

"The State Health Board desires, first of all, close co-operation of the medical profession, and it would be a distinct advantage to all concerned if the initiative in organizing these units were to come from the medical societies," Dr. Ferree said.

The only such unit in existence in Indiana is in Lake County, he said.

DOCTOR KEEPS SECRET

ATLANTA, Ga., March 20.—Dr. Samuel Green, prominent Atlanta physician, resumed his practice today after having spent more than a day in jail in defiance of a contempt of court order which sought to force him to reveal the name of a woman patient sought by defense attorneys in a damage suit.

BLAZE CAUSES \$50,000 LOSS IN RUSSIAVILLE

Early Reconstruction of Downtown Buildings Is Planned.

Times Special
RUSSIAVILLE, Ind., March 20.—This little town was busy today planning reconstruction of approximately \$50,000 worth of buildings in the downtown section destroyed last night by fire.

And if it had not been for the assistance of nearby towns, plus a heavy downpour of rain at about 10:30 p. m., town leaders said more of the downtown section might have been destroyed.

The fire started about 6:30 p. m. in a brick building that housed the Russiaville Hatchery. No one, it was reported, was in the building. Russiaville has a volunteer fire department, which consists of a bucket brigade, and is equipped only with a two-wheeled, man-powered hose wagon.

Four telephone operators, at their board across the street from the fire, began calling citizens to join the bucket brigade. Next door to the hatchery was a brick building occupied by the Stout & Sons Furniture Store and Funeral Parlor.

That was ignited. Flames also spread to the dry goods store of William O'Brien. As the fire spread, firemen boarded up the windows across the street to keep the heat away from the phone operators so they could continue to spread the alarm.

CLASH AT HEARING ON JUDICIARY PLAN

Editor and Senator Exchange 'Angry Words.'

WASHINGTON, March 20.—Irving Brant, St. Louis editor, and Senator Connally (D. Tex.), exchanged angry words today at the Senate Judiciary Committee hearing on President Roosevelt's judicial plan.

Mr. Brant, appearing in support of Mr. Roosevelt's program, charged that the method of questioning witnesses employed by Senator Connally, a foe of the plan, was a "disgrace."

Sen. Connally rejoined hotly that "this is a country of free speech." Chairman Henry F. Ashurst intervened in the dispute to order the remarks stricken from the committee record.

The outbreak came after an assertion by Mr. Brant that if the Supreme Court is allowed "to stand aloof and use its arbitrary power to thwart the aspirations of the underprivileged masses, the democratic government we have known in the United States will disappear."

SPANISH REBELS ON RUN, LOYALISTS SAY

WITH LOYALIST ARMY, MADRID FRONT, March 20.—Moorish and Fascist reinforcements rushed down the Aragon highway today to halt the headlong flight of Rebel Gen. Francisco Franco's Italian units and make another stand north of Gajanejos, Loyalist Army dispatches reported.

Army leaders made public the text of an alleged telegram from Premier Mussolini to Gen. Mancini of the Italian forces fighting with the Rebels, urging them to victory.

CONFESSION CLAIMED IN DEATH OF GIRL, 9

NEW YORK, March 20.—Less than two hours after the body of 9-year-old Einar Sporrer was found today in a sack near her home, Salvatore Ossido, middle-aged barber, confessed to police that he lured the child into the rear of his shop, attacked and strangled her.

GUNMEN KILL YOUTH

PITTSBURGH, March 20.—Warfare over moonshine liquor was blamed today by police for the killing of Alberto (Butchy) Melaragno, 19, and the critical wounding of Joseph Salducci, 25, by two gunmen.

Submitting a list of names from whom a judge may be selected to try the case.

"Applicant hereby prays and requests the clerk of this court to certify the facts set forth herein to the clerk of the Supreme Court of the state of Indiana."

Other developments incident to the slugging of Mr. Coy, and alleged lobbying activities of Joe Baker and Canella, also were to be discussed by the legislative committee today, Mr. Bedwell said.

Famine Strikes Nine Million in Central China

By United Press
PEIPING, China, March 20.—Nine million people are starving in a 13,000-square mile famine area in Central China, the Honan Province Famine Relief Commission announced today.

C. C. Chang, engineer of the International Famine Relief Committee, disclosed that peasants were stripping metal from their homes and bartering it for cottonseed cake, normally used as fertilizer, as their only food.

A year-long drought, climaxing eight years of crop failures, had brought the people of the region to the end of their resources, Chang said, and the only hope of relief was early rain.

STRIKERS WRITE MURPHY LETTER

Demand Satisfactory Pact Before Leaving Nine Chrysler Plants.

(Continued from Page One)

that our grievances are adjusted, or you can use the state's troops to try to force us out.

"The first way will lead to industrial peace and the elimination of the causes for strikes. The second way will lead to bloodshed, violence and more strikes.

"We are resolved to protect our rights to our jobs with our lives. Our choice is flatly up to you."

The letter was prepared as the Governor announced the outlook for industrial peace "favorable" and as James P. Dewey, Federal conciliator active in the recent General Motors strike, arrived in Detroit.

"I will be unable to announce my plans until I have seen the Governor," Mr. Dewey said.

Murphy slept late after the early morning breakup of a preliminary conference between representatives of the United Automobile Workers and Chrysler officials—a meeting arranged at his behest.

He was to meet today with Sheriff Thomas W. Wilcox and other County officials. Presumably Mr. Dewey will attend. The sheriff is under Circuit Court order to arrest the Chrysler strikers and bring them before Judge Allan Campbell to show cause why they should not be held in contempt for failure to quit the plants under injunction.

The corporation, in a formal statement by President K. T. Keller, told its employees today that they were the "victims of a lawless element which is striving to tear down all that the corporation has built up."

PITTSBURGH, March 20.—President William Green of the American Federation of Labor today carried into Federal court his fight to prevent the New Kensington, Pa., local of the National Council of Aluminum Workers from transferring its allegiance to John L. Lewis.

Calling All Juniors to this ...

Feature Selling of New Dresses

You see, they're regularly 7.95, but for Saturday and Monday ONLY the price is—

6.95

Such tricky little styles... what fun you'll have choosing this one and that one! Cape styles, one and two pieces in prints and solid shades. Sizes 11, 13 and 15.

Dress sketched—a new Spice Fabric called PEPPERTONE, featuring this spring's new idea of grosgrain bound edging.

Another Saturday and Monday Feature

Junior Coats and Suits Regularly 16.95

14.95

An unusually smart group of topper and "Chang" suits... of fitted and "swing" coats. Sizes 11, 13 and 15.

Do you know—

That the quality food and the dignified service accounts for Seville's popularity on Sunday after church and in the evening?

Seville TAVERN

7 N. MERIDIAN, INDIANAPOLIS

SUNDAY TOWNE DINNER 50c

Fletcher Trust Company

COMMERCIAL BANKING SAVINGS • TRUSTS CITY-WIDE BRANCHES

Member Federal Reserve System Member Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation