

West Side Fire Stresses Need For Low-Cost Housing



Three firemen pour a stream of water on the smoking, charred ruins in the rear of 1446 N. Missouri St.

Bewildered Victims of Roaring Flames Sift Through Ruins for Salvageable Property

By JOHN WILSON

Bewildered, homeless victims of a raging fire that swept through four West Side houses and a church today sifted through the ruins for salvageable property and sought places of refuge.

Whipped by a brisk wind, flames roared through the tinder-dry wooden structures of the 1400 block N. Missouri St. yesterday afternoon and threatened homes in a block-square area. None of the victims was injured.

Flanner House, Negro community center, aided the homeless in finding temporary living quarters and supplied clothing to those who lost all their personal belongings.

Uncertain of Next Move
Some of the victims spent the night with relatives and neighbors, but all agreed they were not sure what they would do eventually. "Guess we'll do the next best thing," one elderly man said, shaking his head.

The need for decent, low-cost housing—the objective of the Indianapolis Redevelopment Commission—is pointed up by the fire, according to Cleo Blackburn, Flanner House head, who surveyed the destruction with Mayor Feeney.

"People here live in jeopardy," said Mr. Blackburn. "This is the kind of thing we've been working for new housing for."

"I guess we must have a kind of thing like this to awaken the community. What if it had happened at night?"



Cleo Blackburn surveys damage . . . "Shows need for decent, low-cost housing."

St. a small nondescript black dog moved nervously back and forth near her charred kennel, keeping watch over her tiny puppy that died in the flames. The mother dog kept would-be helpers away by her barking and snapping. Firemen, however, were able to remove the ruined kennel and uncovered another very much alive puppy.

Miss Mattie McGavock, 1442 N. Missouri St., was a luckier fire victim. She was able to save a few clothes, a bed and a radio. She said she thought her house was still in a livable condition.

He said his landlord came out only to collect the rent. "They don't care about the place," he said. "Only money."

Thomas Thompson, who lives

at 1434 N. Missouri St., considered his family very lucky. The fire narrowly missed spreading to his frame house.

"These people will have no place to go," he said. "but I guess there's nothing you can do about it. There's nothing better. You can only move to something worse."

The victims moved silently among the blackened remains. The question of where to go was uppermost in their minds, but they weren't sure how it was to be solved.

Disabled Veteran's Son Killed by Truck
CRAWFORDSVILLE, May 12 (UP) — Seven-year-old Ronnie Baldwin, son of a disabled World War I veteran, was fatally injured yesterday when he fell beneath a truck.

Police said the youngster was climbing over the side of the truck when he fell. Police did not hold Joe Kendrick, a city employee, who was driving the truck.

Survivors were the father and mother, Mr. and Mrs. Everett Baldwin; two brothers and four sisters.

BRITISH REACH HONG KONG
HONG KONG, May 12 (UP) — The first reinforcements for this British crown colony arrived today.

Anthropologists to Meet
BLOOMINGTON, May 12 — More than 100 anthropologists and archaeologists from over the United States will gather this week-end at Indiana University for the 25th annual session of the Central States Branch of the American Anthropological Association and the 14th annual session of the Society for American Archaeology.

Name McConnell Head of Firm
C. Bruce McConnell has been named president of Hamilton, Harris & Co., succeeding E. W. Harris who has been president for 20 years.

Mr. Harris was named to the recently created position of chairman of the board. He and L. O. Hamilton founded the wholesale tobacco and candy company Jan. 1, 1906.

Mr. McConnell has been with the company since 1923, serving as salesman, sales manager and first vice president. He is president of radio stations in South Bend, Anderson and Ft. Wayne.

Other officers of the company are Edward W. Harris Jr., first vice president; John E. Messick, second vice president, and Earl H. Schmidt, secretary and treasurer.

Edward Taylor, an elderly unemployed man, leaned on a trunk outside his former home at 1438 N. Missouri St. It was all he had saved except the clothing he wore.

"It seems that the city has forgotten about us all out here," he said bitterly. "I don't know of any fire inspections ever made out here."

Edward Taylor . . . saved only a trunk



Edward Taylor . . . saved only a trunk

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