

\$20,000 Meridian Hills Fire Spurs Plans for Protection

No Hydrant Within Mile Of Razed Home

Blaze Spreads While First Firemen Wait Chemical Trucks

A Meridian Hills official today said the town board would move immediately to provide better fire protection for the fashionable suburb.

The action came after a fire raged through the \$20,000 home of Mr. and Mrs. Max W. Null, 7555 N. Illinois St., yesterday while firemen traveled a mile to get water to fight the blaze. Firemen said the home was a "total" loss.

The fire pointed up the inadequacy of Meridian Hills fire hydrant system, Carleton B. Edwards, president of the town board, admitted.

No Water Available

The nearest hydrant to the rambling ranch type home was a mile away, at 78th and Meridian St. Because there was no hydrant nearby the first firemen to reach the scene were unable to douse the blaze.

The fire spread from its starting place in the garage into the house as the first contingent of firemen awaited arrival of chemical trucks and pumper from Indianapolis. The Ravenswood Fire Department was also called but that truck became mired down as firemen cut across a field to reach the home. The volunteers continued on foot to aid Indianapolis firemen.

Firemen had to leave the scene twice to go to Meridian Hills Golf Course, for water.

Mr. Edwards said the fire at the Null home pointed up the need for more hydrants. He said the board was presently surveying cost of new hydrants for the community. A wave of building in the past year has made more fire protection necessary, he said.

Denies Requests Refused

Mr. Edwards denied that the board had refused requests for additional hydrants as an economy measure. He said there had been no such request to the board during his four years as a board member.

The fire was discovered shortly after 3 p. m. yesterday. A passerby saw it and told Miss Jean Stackhouse, 24, a neighbor, who awakened Mrs. Ruth Null and 3-year-old Mike Null, asleep in the home.

Cause of the blaze was not determined. It enveloped the garage, destroying a 1949 Dodge and spread through a breezeway into the six-room home.

Neighbors carried out most of the furnishings from the blazing home. Later after the fire had spread into the home a backdraft gas formation exploded, lifting the roof several inches and moving the entire house off the foundation.

Firemen said it was a total loss. Mr. Null, general superintendent of A. V. Stackhouse Construction Co., said the loss was covered by insurance.

Study Oil Heat For New Manual

A study of architects' estimates for the new, \$3 million Manual High School to be erected soon revealed today a possible saving of \$120,000 if oil heat is employed.

Architect August Bohlen yesterday told the building committee of the Board of School Commissioners installation of oil burning equipment would cost \$120,000 against a cost of \$240,000 to install a coal-burning plant.

Comparative fuel costs for a school year were estimated at \$23,460 for coal and \$23,511.50 for oil.

Final decision on the type of heating equipment to be installed was deferred until further study could be made by the building committee. Chairman Emil V. Schaud said ground probably will be broken this spring at the intersection of Madison Ave. and Pleasant Run Pkwy. for the new school.

Noblesville 'Date Bank' Described in Article

The story of the Noblesville High School "date bank" for hard-pressed pupils is told in the January issue of the American Magazine.

Operated by the school's student council, the fund provides loans of 50 cents to \$2 to pupils at no interest. Money for the loans comes from profits on the sale of school supplies.

Principal J. B. Stephens, who devised the project, said most of the borrowers are boys. But some girls have received loans, too.

Quits WILDLIFE SERVICE

WASHINGTON, Dec. 30 (UPI) — W. Roy Dillon of the Fish and Wildlife Service retired today after 37 years of government service.

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Remains of the Max W. Null garage and car... the blaze pointed up Meridian Hills fire protection inadequacies.

Arabian Nights Come to Life As King Farouk Seeks Wife

(Continued from Page One)

Farouk, in a field marshal's uniform, stood beside the bride's father. There were only six witnesses. A ritual was read. Farouk and the father joined right hands. A green silk handkerchief was placed over the hands. Farouk responded to ritualistic questions, and then said: "I take Farida under my care and pledge myself to give her protection."

Farida, veiled, was then driven home in a coach drawn by eight Arabian horses.

The marriage seemed a happy one. Farouk was a busy king. He ousted domestic parliamentary foes. The Spanish civil war and the Italian conquest of Ethiopia disturbed the Mediterranean. But he found time to give lavish parties, with pretty Farida at his side.

Needed Male Heir Farida bore three daughters—Ferial in 1938, Fawzia in 1940, and Fadila in 1943. But King Farouk had decreed that the throne would pass to male heirs. Farouk wanted a son.

On Nov. 17, 1945, Farouk divorced Farida. Moslem husbands can divorce their wives at will. And Farouk needed only to sign a decree. A royal palace statement said: "God's will ordered that the sacred relation between the noble couple be broken. This will direct the hearts of King Farouk and Queen Farida to a desire for divorce while both felt regret. The royal cabinet while making this announcement pray to God to prepare for King Farouk what will make the country happy."

After the divorce Farouk appeared often to be lonely. A year ago he went skiing together at St. Moritz. But they were always in the queen's family party. Farouk took her swimming and horseback riding and on moonlight drives.

Welcomed back to Cairo, young Farouk became Egypt's first independent modern king. A treaty of Aug. 26, 1936 had ended the British military occupation of the country.

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Covington Plans Second Bible Reading Marathon

New Testament, Psalms Will Be Read—Service Expected to Last 24 Hours

COVINGTON, Dec. 30—This small community was preparing today for its second Bible marathon to begin at midnight New Year's Eve.

The first Bible-reading marathon conducted here two years ago by civic and religious leaders gained world-wide attention. The 1947 marathon, covering the entire 1189 chapters of the Bible, was completed in 72 hours and 20 minutes.

The story was carried by press associations and magazines throughout the world.

This year, however, only the New Testament and the Psalms, a total of 410 chapters, will be read. The marathon is expected to be completed in 24 hours.

The marathon is a nonsectarian project of the community. Plans call for readers to read in 10-minute shifts.

Major Roscoe Sprague will open the reading. He will be followed by Judge Roy C. Fenters, Prosecutor Carl Henthorn, Sheriff Chester Cooper and Police Chief John Patterson.

The Rev. Fr. Peters, Catholic priest, will be among the first local ministers to read. His part will be taken from the Catholic version of the Bible.

The Bible marathon will follow a special "watch night" program at 9 p.m. in the community house.

Watch Night Program

The program will include music by the Dixie Four of Radio Station WIBC, Indianapolis; a half-hour Bible quiz and a 15-minute church of prayers.

In announcing plans for the marathon, the Rev. B. R. Minton, pastor of the local Assembly of God Church, said:

"We sincerely feel that our Bible marathon and the beautiful spirit of co-operation which is manifested at this time is a challenge as well as an example to all the world."

He said the 1947 marathon was the first time an entire community or city had come together to read the Bible in such a manner.

More than 30 clubs and organizations will be represented in the marathon. The list includes veterans' groups, sororities, lodges and Scout organizations.

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31 New Voting Units Proposed

Plan to Be Presented To Commissioners

Creation of 31 new voting units and elaborate boundary changes in Marion County election precincts, has been proposed by county Republican officials.

John E. Innis, county GOP chairman, said the plans were made under direction of the Marion County Republican Committee and would be presented "within the next few days" for approval of the Board of County Commissioners.

Although both Democratic and Republican county organizations agree that some precincts are too large, they disagree sharply on some of the details involving the proposed changes.

Plan 750 Limit

Mr. Innis said the GOP plan would limit precincts to about 750 voters.

But Paul J. McDuff, county Democratic chairman, said his organization would reject the plan drawn up by Center Township Trustee George Johnson, a Republican.

Mr. McDuff said his group was in favor of division of precincts with more than 850 to 900 voters, but would oppose generally, many of the other suggested changes.

While arguing over "details" of the plan, both organization chairmen agreed the boundary changes were necessary due to the rapid growth in some sections of the county.

Largely affected by the proposed plan would be the heavily Republican populated Four h. Fifth, 18th, 20th and 21st wards.

Promises Leniency

Mr. Thurston offered leniency for the "hardship cases" when he appeared in a panel discussion during a convention of the Indiana Township Trustees Association yesterday in the Claypool Hotel.

He said extension of time past the Feb. 15 limit could be made for cases where it is definitely shown that replacement or overhauling would work a "hardship" on the owner.

According to the superintendent, 50 of the 301 condemned busses already have been replaced, and 398 of the remaining 451 need only change from side to forward facing seats to meet requirements.

Of 1339 busses ordered repaired for minor defects found when inspected all but 414 have been fixed up, Mr. Thurston added.

The state police chief said he had been authorized by Gov. Schricker to appear before the meeting yesterday and explain the safety commission's action in enforcing regulations against below-standard busses.

Questions put to Mr. Thurston after the panel discussion indicated most opposition to the condemnation came from "the timing, not the rule."

Drivers said they hadn't gotten sufficient warning of the crackdown. The same complaint was made by township trustees.

But the superintendent said a warning was issued in August that this year's state police inspection would be more stringent. The regulations have been in effect since 1941, but enforcement was lax during the war and immediate postwar years.

Bolivian Pilot Sued

In 55 Crash Deaths

WASHINGTON, Dec. 30 (UPI)

Eastern Airlines today sued Bolivian pilot Eric Rios Bridoux for \$500,000 for "recklessly" ramming his passenger plane here Nov. 1 in an accident which killed 55 persons.

In a suit filed in U. S. District Court, the air line asked damages for loss of the plane—a DC-4. It made no claim for other damages.

The Bolivian pilot, testing a P-38 for his government, crashed into the Eastern transport when both were coming in for a landing at Washington National Airport.

Plans for a church ceremony were simply substituted for a quiet service at Henry County Hospital where the bride was placed in a cast. Wedding trip plans were delayed.

A Truly Happy Birthday for Sandra

NLRB to Set Date For Laundry Vote

Rival Unions Disagree On Time of Election

Plans for the Indianapolis laundry workers' election were expected to be set today at a second meeting of unions with the local National Labor Relations Board.

The opening meeting yesterday with representatives of the AFL and the CIO Retail, Wholesale and Department Store unions failed to produce a decision on the election dates.

NLRB officials indicated the election probably would begin the week of Jan. 9. They expect the voting will take three to five days.

The election must be completed by Jan. 22, according to the last decision of the NLRB.

2000 to Vote

Board officials said the setting of dates for the election was complicated by the number of workers involved. They estimated that 2000 to 2500 would be eligible to vote. And they pointed out the voters are widely scattered among 42 local plants.

At least five NLRB officials will conduct the election. Voting will take place in each plant.

Edward J. Fillenwarth, attorney for the AFL Laundry Workers' Union, yesterday requested that the election be held Jan. 4 to 6. But Joseph Romer, state director of the CIO union, urged that the voting be at a later date.

Doubtful radio moderate Right-handers ready today to the government to Georges Bidault's \$6.5 billion budget, chances for the government to be of confidence in him.

The Socialists previously had abstained on motion to adjourn the budget debate, but now are back in the

debate.

Gen. Douglass headquarters have been moved to remove obstacles to the Japanese merchant ships in high seas, officials said today.

Efforts to stop Japanese ships expected to follow

Claimed

Throughout the world said she was in their home at home only in self defense. She died of a gun shot in the death of Claude, 52, today.

In a letter to Miss Jessie Lee said she decided to find her conviction money necessary.

Mrs. Conrad, for first degree Mar. 15 shooting, was convicted and sentenced to a year and a day.

Claimed

Throughout the world said she was in their home at home only in self defense. She died of a gun shot in the death of Claude, 52, today.

On Dec. 9 J. J. Bain, sentenced to two to 21 years in Women's Prison.

Execution of

postponed by