

# Tenant's Quick Action, Bravery Save 16 in Apartment House Fire

Spreads Alarm Throughout Building Before Turning to Rescue of Own Children

Quick thinking and bravery on the part of one tenant today was credited with saving 16 persons from injury or death in an Indianapolis apartment fire late last night.

Carol Boffing, 35, was being lauded by firemen for his action in arousing tenants at the Avon Apartments, 244-248 E. 10th St., when he was awakened by smoke and heard fire "ing through the walls of the building.

Mr. Boffing ran through the building spreading the alarm before carrying his two smallest children, Darleen, 3, and Carol Jr., 1½, out the front door with his wife.

When he returned for his eldest son, Scotty, 6, he found himself cut off by fire and was forced to smash a rear door with his fist to rescue the boy.

Occupants of the second floor apartments were cut off from the steps and one man, Robert Bailey, dropped his 5-year-old son, James, from the second-floor window into Mr. Boffing's arms.

With the arrival of fire apparatus, ladders were put up and all occupants, including a 73-year-old couple and their pet dog, were rescued.

Others taken from the building included Mr. and Mrs. Charles Taylor; Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Abney; Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Shelly; Claude McCreary, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Cannon and Mrs. Virginia Bonewitz and son, Marshall.

Police recalled the apartment was the scene of a tragedy 15 years ago when a furnace boiler exploded. The janitor was killed and one wall of the building blown out.

George Jennings, 1010 N. Alabama St., owner of the building, blamed defective wiring in the basement. He said the damage would be in excess of \$4000.

## Boy, 13, Admits Robbing Southwest Side Homes

A 13-year-old boy arrested after breaking into the home of Mrs. Lucille Cox, 830 River Ave., has admitted burglaries of nearly a dozen southwest Indianapolis residences.

Police said the boy had cut a rear screen door of the Cox residence and was ransacking dresser drawers when discovered yesterday afternoon.

Loot was small in most cases. The boy told police he would knock at front doors. If there was no answer, he would go to the rear and enter by breaking a window. He was turned over to juvenile authorities.

## Masked, Armed Bandit Takes \$20 in Gas Station

A masked, armed bandit robbed a service station attendant of approximately \$20 last night.

Robert Batty, 5344 W. Winthrop Ave., night attendant at the Wake-Up Station, 810 W. Washington St., told police the bandit entered the place and demanded "all your money" while a second man waited outside.

## Screams of Girl, 17, Rout Molester

A 17-year-old South Side girl was struck in the face last night by a man who accosted her as she returned from a movie. He fled when she screamed.

Officers said another man also was routed by the screams of a woman last night when he attempted to grab her near her home on Finley Ave.

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## Trial in Recess, Watts Maps Fight

Counsel to Probe 'Surprise Witnesses'

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South Shore Inn records for the defense with both a state and defense lawyer accompanying them. Judge Long originally ruled that the hearing would begin at the end of court today but later called off today's session after defense attorneys said the time granted was not sufficient.

The trial was interrupted yesterday when another violent outburst by Watts caused an early recess.

The latter outburst occurred during cross-examination of his mother-in-law, Mrs. Sadie Hardman, 2340 Martindale Ave. Watts twice had to be wrestled back into his chair by his lawyers and guards and finally admonished to "stay there" by Judge Long.

On direct examination Mrs. Hardman said her son-in-law was a church-going, choir-singing man who spent his time at home with his wife and baby.

But on cross-examination Bartholomew County Prosecutor William Lienberger asked if it wasn't true she had told officers at the time of Watts' arrest that "it was a wonder he hadn't killed his wife and baby" and that the family was afraid to let him hold his baby because he "pinched and pulled its hair."

Watts screams. Before she could answer, Watts burst into angry screams and had to be subdued. She later denied saying this and numerous other statements which the state read to her.

Watts' child, now 2½ years old, was sitting on the lap of Mrs. Watts beside the defendant when the outburst occurred. Mrs. Watts, who has filed suit for divorce, testified yesterday Watts was at home several times Nov. 12, 1947, the day of the slaying.

She also said she had not seen a jacket with her husband's name on it for several months before his arrest. The jacket was found in the home of Mrs. Harriett Stout, who broke free and fled from the man who tried to attack her the morning of Nov. 12.

"Saw No Scratches" Another major defense witness yesterday was former state policeman William Waggoner who said he saw no scratches on Watts' body when he fingerprinted him late the night of the murder.

Earlier former deputy sheriff Harry Foxworthy, who examined Watts on admittance to Marion County Jail, testified he found Watts' body covered with scratches and tooth impressions on his hand. These marks allegedly were received when Mrs. Stout bit Watts as he broke free and broke through a screened porch to escape.

Mr. Waggoner left the state police department in December, after he was relieved of duty because of the identification division.

Jury Foreman Slips On 'Guilty' Verdict MILWAUKEE, Mar. 23 (UP)—The jury in a drunk driving case filed into the box and the foreman read a verdict of "not guilty."

Uproar broke out among the jurors, and the judge ordered a poll. It showed that all had voted "guilty."

After the jury had retired to its room and balloted again yesterday the red-faced foreman explained that he must have slipped the wrong form in the verdict envelope.

SETS OFFICE HOURS Information service department of Indianapolis Railways will be closed on Saturdays and Sundays beginning this week, officials of the transit firm said today.

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## Truman to Delay Naming AEC Chief

Fills Vacancy On Commission

By MERRIMAN SMITH United Press White House Reporter KEY WEST, Fla., Mar. 23—President Truman will not name a new chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission until after his return to Washington next month, sources at the White House said today.

This news followed his selection yesterday of Thomas E. Murray, New York City industrial engineer and business executive, to succeed David E. Lillenthal as an AEC member.

Mr. Murray, however, definitely will not succeed to the AEC chairmanship which Mr. Lillenthal held.

The selection of a chairman was expected when the President nominates a successor to AEC Commissioner Lewis Strauss whose resignation becomes effective Apr. 15. Nominations for commission membership are subject to Senate confirmation, but designation of a chairman is a presidential prerogative.

White House officials were inclined to discount Washington reports that Gen. Lucius D. Clay, former American military governor in Germany, was "in the picture" for the chairmanship.

An official closely conversant with Mr. Truman's plans said flatly that Gen. Clay was not under consideration now.

Gen. Clay said himself at Asheville, N. C., last night, "I have never even heard about it and I haven't thought about it."

## 'Cinderella' Forgets Fun to Help Family

Keeps Home Running When Illness Strikes

By ART WRIGHT

A daughter who gives up her own pleasures to help her mother is Indianapolis' latest candidate for Cinderella honors.

She is Helen Dolores Halloran, 15, of 940 Concord St., a sophomore at Sacred Heart High School.

Her mother, Mrs. Thomas Halloran, wrote this nominating letter to The Times.

"This is a good way to thank my darling daughter. She was mother to her brothers and sisters when the last four children were born. When I came home from the hospital, everything was running smoothly. I know it was awfully hard for her to turn down invitations to go swimming, skating or play tennis. She didn't say a word, even though a new pair of skates hung in the attic . . . and now they're too small."

"The baby and two other sisters had pneumonia. With her help they got over it. She also got sick but stayed on her feet when I came down with arthritis in my hips and legs."

"The past two weeks she has been hurrying home from school to get supper for the family and to do the hundreds of things that seven sick children want because they have the whooping cough. Still in the face of that she laughs."

\$300 First Prize You can name your favorite Cinderella, too, by writing a letter to The Times. If the judges select her as the outstanding Cinderella, she will receive \$300. Second place will get \$100 and third place will receive \$50. The person naming the first place Cinderella will receive \$50. The 100 outstanding Cinderellas will appear on the stage of the Indiana Theater Apr. 5 when Walt Disney's new cartoon movie, "Cinderella," opens there. Everyone will receive prizes.

Keep your letter as brief as possible and not more than 150 words. Send it to: Cinderella Contest, The Indianapolis Times, 224 W. Maryland St.

All letters become the property of The Times and the decision of the judges will be final.



Helen Halloran, "just like a mother" to her brothers and sisters, is one of Indianapolis' typical Cinderellas. She is shown here with a sister, Mary, 13 months.

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## Economist Sees Big Building Year

Group Hears St. Louis Man

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comparable period last year, he forecast a "good year ahead" for builders and realtors.

Houses already started during the mild winter indicate this year will exceed, in the first six months, total constructions during the first half of 1949. But, with the government "putting the strings around the credit bag" it is unlikely this record pace will be continued throughout the year, he said.

Mr. Wenzlick forecast a 5 per cent dip in the cost of construction by the end of the year but said prices of homes will not come down substantially.

He slapped President Truman's loan guarantee program by saying that the administration's Fair Deal is "a carnival put on for charity. That's what the dictionary says 'fair' means."

In making a long range forecast, the economist said there would be a softening all along the line "becoming marked in 1953."

Realtors were told the next real estate depression bottom will come around 1957. Mr. Wenzlick said construction costs at that time will be 30 per cent below what they are today. However, these costs still will be 75 per cent higher than they were in 1939.

Mr. Wenzlick deplored the boom and bust cycle in business today and urged a tightening of credit in the peak business years to deflate the boom. This, he said, would make the rise and fall less pronounced.

More than 400 realtors, builders and lenders attended the abstract company's annual luncheon.

## Cub Scout Show Set

Handicraft products of Cub Scouts of Central Indiana Council will be shown Mar. 31 and Apr. 1 in Ipaeco Hall, E. 16th and N. Alabama Sts. Robert Price is committee chairman. The display will open 7 to 9 p. m. the 31st and 10 a. m. to 9 p. m. the 1st.

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