

Explosion, Fire Hit South Haven

House Leveled, Family Dog Is Killed

SOUTH HAVEN — Explosion and fire leveled the home of Mr. and Mrs. John Freeman, South Haven, yesterday afternoon, shaking the neighborhood and blasting out windows in the nearby home of Ezell Bradley, city firemen and local state police reported. No one was hurt.

Mrs. Nhu Sends Her Condolence

She Understands How Jackie Feels



MRS. NGO DINH NHU.

ROME (AP) — "I understand fully how you should feel," Mrs. Ngo Dinh Nhu said in a cable to Mrs. John F. Kennedy yesterday.

Mrs. Nhu's husband and her brother-in-law, President Ngo Dinh Diem of South Vietnam, were killed during a military revolt Nov. 1 while she was touring the United States. She joined her children in Rome two weeks ago and has been in seclusion at a convent.

Irving R. Levine, National Broadcasting Company (NBC) correspondent, said Mrs. Nhu had sent this cable to Mrs. Kennedy.

"Though not having the pleasure to know you, or hearing from you personally, I wish to tell you of my profound sympathy for you and your little ones in your time of shock and grief."

"I surely I have said that anything happening in Viet Nam will surely find the equivalent in the U.S.A., truly I would not wish for anyone what the Vietnamese and myself are now enduring while we were so near our victory against communism."

BLAMES REDS

"But though not being proven alike, I understand fully how you should feel before that ordeal which God has bestowed on you. I sympathize the more, for I understand that the ordeal might seem to you even more unbearable because of your habitually well-sheltered life, notwithstanding how particularly incomprehensible it would be, if, as reported, President Kennedy's assassination comes from Communist hands."

Indeed, such a murder where even the wounds inflicted on President Kennedy were identical to those of President Ngo Dinh Diem and of my husband, and coming only 20 days after the Vietnamese tragedy, would only prove to the world that even power or extreme graciousness with communism still does not protect from its traitorous blows."

"My children and I have especially prayed for President Kennedy when we learned what he did not regain consciousness to receive the last sacraments of the church. Be assured also that our most fervent thoughts and prayers are with you and your dear ones."

Like the Kennedys, Mrs. Nhu and her four children are Roman Catholics.



BLAST LEVELS SOUTH HAVEN HOME: A Sunday afternoon explosion and fire destroyed the home of Mr. and Mrs. John Freeman, throwing debris as far as 200 feet in all directions. Only victim was the family dog, found dead under the wreckage. State police said area fire marshal will investigate the cause of the explosion today. (News-Palladium photo)

Ex-Harborite Promoted By New York Air Brake

Frank A. Trautman, a former Benton Harbor resident and Bendix Corp. employee, has been promoted to the position of superintendent of the Waterworks Division of the New York Air Brake Co. of Watertown, N.Y.

Trautman joined the New York firm May 6, 1963, as assistant superintendent of foundations. He formerly was employed several years by Bendix at Benton Harbor where he resided with his wife and three children at 1448 Bishop street.

He attended Benton Harbor Community College and took several specialized courses at the University of Michigan. The family is residing at 1203 State street in Watertown.



FRANK A. TRAUTMAN

Catch Her, Need Force

Resisting Woman Rists Jail Matron

A 29-year-old Benton Harbor woman, arrested by city police early Sunday morning for reckless driving, got out of hand while being booked at the Benton County jail and was finally subdued with force by four policemen and a jail matron, city police reported.

Benton Harbor patrolmen James Jackson and Cyril Fuller said Marie M. Shuman, of 202 Lake avenue, led them on a 90 mile-an-hour chase on Territorial road at 4 a.m. Sunday before they stopped her with the aid of Benton township police.

The officers said the woman was being booked at the county jail when she put up a struggle and used abusive language. The two officers were assisted by deputies Ed Whitfield, Charles Hoffman, and jail matron Ed Mielke in placing the woman in a cell.

MATRON TRIPPED

During the struggle, the officers said, the woman tripped Miss Mielke, causing her to fall and strike her head on the concrete wall and floor. Miss Mielke suffered a stiff neck and a leg bruise but remained on duty. The matron said all four police officers were required to place Miss Shuman in a cell. She was later taken to Mercy hospital for treatment of an ankle injury, then returned to jail.

The woman was charged with reckless driving and being drunk and disorderly.

Hit By Car Woman Says

Mrs. John Tragna, 40, of 1020 Connell court, Benton township, reported to Benton township police that she was struck by a car on M-138 shortly past midnight Saturday morning.

The accident was reported to police about noon yesterday. Mrs. Tragna said the family car ran out of gas on M-138 near Empire avenue and she was walking on the highway. She did not require hospitalization at the time but checked with a doctor later, she said, when she felt pains. Injuries were apparently minor, she stated.

Mrs. Tragna and her husband, with her at the time of the accident, did not get the name of the driver, who stopped and took her husband to a gas station. Police are checking a license number given them by the Tragnas.

Probe \$250 Burglary

Benton County sheriff's deputies today were investigating a \$250 burglary at the North Tower, on Be and Defield roads.

Deputy Nick Bruce said that the loot included clothing, milk, soft drinks, meat, cake and pancake mixes, soup, hats and 29 cartons of cigarettes. Bruce said the burglary occurred sometime Saturday night.

Theft Case At An End

A 13-year-old Coloma boy was to be disciplined by his father Sunday for the shoplifting Saturday of five candy bars from a Coloma service station.

Deputy Gary Mitchell said the service station operator declined to press charges after the lad's father told the deputy. "You've taken proper action on your end of this thing, and I'm going to take proper action on my son's end."

Candidates Introduced To NAACP

Lahti Explains Dec. 5 Balloting

Benton Harbor NAACP members yesterday were introduced to 20 candidates for trustee positions for the proposed county college under a special meeting at the community center on Highland avenue.

Dr. Robert Lahti, Benton Harbor Community College president, explained to about 100 persons the mechanics of the Dec. 5 balloting at which voters will determine three trustees to establish the college, a millage levy and the choosing of six trustees.

During the meeting, Mrs. Lulu Lee, Benton Harbor city commissioner and chairman of yesterday's program, read expressions of sorrow which have been sent to President Lyndon Johnson on the death of President Kennedy.

Mrs. Lee said yesterday's program was abbreviated because of the "heavy rain of every-one" as a result of Friday's assassination.

BOY WRITES Letter To Santa Is Poignant

HARBERT — The tragic assassination of President John F. Kennedy has touched the lives of a sincere people—both young and old.

The sincere concern of Lawrence R. Fisher III, the seven-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence R. Fisher, Jr., Harbert, was expressed in the following letter addressed to "Santa Claus."

Lawrence is a second grade student at Trinity Lutheran School in Sawyer.

This is his letter: "Dear Santa Claus: 'I am writing for my sister Leslie and me. I have been good. We want to get a letter soon so you won't forget it. I get straight A's in spelling. We would like toys, don't get me and don't get me some money. I hope you are fine. Don't get my teacher miss stork, she doesn't have any candy for me. I hope you mite like some money to 'Lawrence R. Fisher. 'Harbert michigan

"P.S. Please don't forget President Kennedy's children John and Carolyn. They need lots of things because they don't have there daddy now."

Area Schools Get Interest Fund Checks

Benton County treasurer William Bartz has mailed out checks totaling \$428,800 in interest funds to area schools.

The figure represents a payment of \$9.19 per student. Largest payments went to Benton Harbor, \$49,240; St. Joseph, \$46,924; Lakeshore, \$20,480; and Fairplain, \$12,283. Other schools receiving checks include: Brantwine, \$22,239; Benton Springs, \$20,686; Watervliet, \$15,377; Coloma, \$12,137, and Fairplain, \$12,945.

Vandals Rip Up Things In Benton

James Burns, 17½ Summer street, reported to Benton township police Saturday that his new camping-type trailer had been peppered with BB pellets, an attempt made to break into the trailer tool box and two bicycles damaged maliciously. The damage was reported at 3:10 a.m. Saturday.

Legal Notice

NOTICE OF SPECIAL ELECTION. TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF THE CITY OF BENTON HARBOR, MICHIGAN: The polls of the said election will be held on Thursday, December 5, 1963, at 7 o'clock A.M. and will remain open until 8 o'clock P.M. The time of the date of the election is hereby fixed.

First Precinct — Benton Avenue School, Benton Avenue, Benton Harbor, Michigan.
Second Precinct — Junior High School, Broadway, Benton Harbor, Michigan.
Third Precinct — St. John's Parish Hall, 521 Pearl St., Benton Harbor, Michigan.
Fourth Precinct — Benton Harbor Community College, 1211 Michigan Street, Benton Harbor, Michigan.

City Hall, 300 West 1st Street, Benton Harbor, Michigan.
Benton Harbor, Michigan.
Benton Harbor, Michigan.
Benton Harbor, Michigan.

Proposed for the purpose of voting on the following: (1) Proposition to establish a Community College District; (2) Tax Rate Limitation increase to provide operating funds, funds for capital improvements and land acquisitions, and debt retirement funds for any general obligation bonds and also to elect six community college district trustees.

Dated this 20th day of November, A.D. 1963.
HAZEN D. HARNER, County Drain Commissioner, County of Berrien, Michigan.
Nov. 23, 1963. —Adv.

(6) Community College District Trustees. The polls of the said election will be held on Thursday, December 5, 1963, at 7 o'clock A.M. and will remain open until 8 o'clock P.M. The time of the date of the election is hereby fixed.

City Clerk, E. L. TIDEY, Benton Harbor, Michigan.
Nov. 23, 1963. —Adv.

PUBLIC NOTICE. To the Qualified Electors of Benton Harbor, Michigan: Notice is hereby given that a Community College District Special Election will be held in the Township of Benton Harbor, Michigan, State of Michigan on Thursday, Dec. 5, 1963, for the purpose of voting on the following: (1) Proposition to establish a Community College District; (2) Tax Rate Limitation increase to provide operating funds, funds for capital improvements and land acquisitions, and debt retirement funds for any general obligation bonds and also to elect six community college district trustees.

The polls of said election will be open at 7 o'clock A.M. and will remain open until 8 o'clock P.M. of said day of election.

Nov. 23, 1963. —Adv.

Notice is hereby given that on December 5, 1963, at 10:00 A.M., the undersigned will sell at public sale for cash, one 1960 Chevrolet 4 door, Motor No. 01419F-141876, Serial No. 141876, 1960 Chevrolet, 395 East Main Street, Benton Harbor, Michigan. The vehicle is stored and may be inspected at above address. We reserve the right to bid.

Citizens Trust & Savings Bank, South Haven, Michigan.
November 25-55. —Adv.

NOTICE OF INSURANCE. Proposals for Compensation, Public Liability, Maintenance and Existence of Highways and Fleet Insurance, which shall include non-owned hired equipment and employees non-owner liability for the year 1964 will be received at the office of the Berrien County Road Commission, 1121 Michigan Street, Benton Harbor, Michigan, until 4 o'clock P.M. on December 26, 1963, and at that time publicly opened, read and considered. Proposals and detailed information may be obtained at the offices of the Road Commission.

Proposals for Fleet Insurance shall be made on the proposal form provided. All bids must be in sealed envelopes, showing the dollar bid and plainly marked on the envelope.

The Road Commission reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to accept or reject any portion thereof that is to the best interest of Berrien County.

BOARD OF COUNTY ROAD COMMISSIONERS OF THE COUNTY OF BERRIEN, MICHIGAN. Frank J. Schmitt, Chairman.
November 22, 1963.
Nov. 23, Dec. 2, 9, 1963. —Adv.

Community College District SPECIAL ELECTION. To the Qualified Electors: NOTICE is hereby given, That a Community College District Special Election will be held in the Township of Benton County of Berrien, State of Michigan on Thursday, December 5, 1963.

The place of each of the several precincts of said township as indicated below, viz:

Precinct 1—Town Hall, Britain and Crysfield.
Precinct 2—Fairplain Central School, Corns, Colfax and Napier.
Precinct 4—Fire Station No. 2, 450 Madison.
Precinct 5—New Martindale School, 2199 Laurel.
Precinct 6—P. A. L. Grange Precinct, 7—Fairplain No. 3, 1405 East Napier.
Precinct 8—12 Corners Grange Hall, U.S. 12 and Hicks ave.
Precinct 9—Fairplain North East, Lynch Street.
FOR THE PURPOSE OF VOTING ON THE FOLLOWING:

Proposition To Establish a Community College District. The purpose of the vote on the following question is to authorize the establishment of a community college district consisting of the County of Berrien, Michigan, and to be established the community college district will be a body corporate, authorized to raise and collect taxes in collegiate and non-collegiate courses of study, embracing not more than two years of collegiate work and for this purpose is authorized to secure, hold and dispose of property, and to incur the business essential to the management of a community college.

Shall Act No. 188 of the Public Acts of 1955, as amended, being sections 390.871 to 390.882 of the Compiled Laws of 1948, be adopted and the County of Berrien, Michigan, be a community college district comprised of the County of Berrien, Michigan.

(Tax Rate Limitation Increase Proposition). Shall the limitation on the total amount of taxes which may be assessed against all property in the proposed Community College District of Benton County, Michigan, be increased by one-tenth of one per cent (0.1%) (1 mill) of the assessed value, as equalized, of all property in the proposed Community College District for a period of twenty (20) years, from 1964 to 1983, both inclusive, for the purpose of providing operating funds, funds for capital improvements and land acquisitions, and debt retirement funds for any general obligation bond issue or issues approved by the electors of the District? And also to elect six community college district trustees.

NOTICE TO QUALIFIED ELECTORS TO OPENING AND CLOSING OF THE POLLS. Election Law, Act 116, P. A. 1954. Section 720. On the day of any election, the polls shall be opened at 7 o'clock in the forenoon, and shall be continuously open until 8 o'clock in the forenoon and no longer. Every qualified elector present and in line at the polls at the hour prescribed by law for the closing thereof shall be allowed to vote.

The polls of said election will be open at 7 o'clock a.m. and will remain open until 8 o'clock p.m. of said day of election.

RONALD J. TAYLOR, Township Clerk.
Nov. 23, 1963. —adv.

Four Youths Taken To Court Link Theft, For Series Of Petty Thefts Stolen Car

A series of minor thefts Saturday night at Shesley's Roller Rink, 453 Highland avenue, resulted in four white, Benton Harbor youths being petitioned by city police to juvenile court. Police Lt. Keith Mills and Officers Cyril Fuller and Dave Hanner said that two wallets, containing a total of \$7, two pairs of youth's shoes, a \$1 bill from another pair of shoes, and a \$13 jacket were reported stolen by six persons during the evening while they were roller skating.

A check of the license plates on the vehicle showed they were longed on another vehicle its owner said was in Twin City Chevrolet body shop for repairs.

On arrival there, the deputies found the shop broken into and called city police.

City policemen said the plates had been stolen off a car in the body shop, but that nothing else had apparently been taken.

The abandoned Buick was later found to have been taken from the Schroeder Buick Sales at 299 West Main street some time Saturday night. Officers said a pry bar, which could have been used in a burglary attempt, was found in the vehicle.

The car was taken to the Berrien County jail where it was to be dusted for fingerprints today.

REPORT SIX STOLEN

Benton Harbor police today were investigating the reported burglary Saturday of the Viet Auto Parts at 259 Territorial road. Officers said six in a Coloma service station.

Deputy Gary Mitchell said the service station operator declined to press charges after the lad's father told the deputy. "You've taken proper action on your end of this thing, and I'm going to take proper action on my son's end."

Abandoned Auto Has Wrong Plates

Benton Harbor police and Berrien County sheriff's men today were investigating a stolen 1961 Buick parked partially over the bank at the Paw Paw river at Park street, in Coloma.

A check of the license plates on the vehicle showed they were longed on another vehicle its owner said was in Twin City Chevrolet body shop for repairs.

On arrival there, the deputies found the shop broken into and called city police.

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FORMING WEST MICHIGAN PLANNING GROUP: Members of the Lake Michigan Region Planning Council met Saturday at the Whitcomb hotel, St. Joseph, to discuss formation of regional planning organization for western Michigan. Council Chairman Sam C. Sit, Chicago Architect, points to Berrien county on map of lower Lake Michigan, an area now partly covered by planning bodies for southwestern Wisconsin, northeast Illinois, and Gary, Ind. Shown here, from left, are Sit; D. J. McGrath, public relations officer of the council; Bernard DeVries, Muskegon planning chairman and chairman of the council's Michigan delegation; and Leslie Cripps, director of planning and Urban Renewal for Benton Harbor.