

Grandmother Saves Two From Flames

By DONALD MacDONALD
Charlotte News Staff Writer

A quick-thinking 41-year-old grandmother, her clothes ablaze, rescued her grandchild and may have saved the life of her pregnant daughter in a fire-explosion here today.

An old-fashioned gasoline iron exploded shortly before 11 o'clock at a home at 1094 N. Alexander St., setting the home ablaze.

Mrs. T. R. Pressley, 41, grabbed her daughter, 18-year-old Vada Paxton, led her outside, rolled her over on the ground to extinguish her burn-

ing clothing and then returned to the house to rescue her 15-month-old granddaughter, Phyllis Ann Paxton.

SEVERE CONDITION

Mrs. Paxton, who is expecting another child next month, was in serious condition at Memorial Hospital with first, second and third degree burns over 40 per cent of her body. At noon, the hospital said her condition was "satisfactory."

In less serious condition is Mrs. Pressley, who was burned on her right arm and right hip. The fire started when the two women were in a middle bed-

room "getting ready to do some ironing."

When the explosion occurred, Mrs. Pressley grabbed her daughter and led her out of the house. Then she returned to get Phyllis Ann.

Firemen from headquarters and Belmont stations gave the two women first aid before the ambulance arrived.

Fire Chief Donald S. Charles, who went to the scene, estimated the damage to the building at "several hundred dollars."

The middle bedroom, where Mrs. Paxton had been ironing,

was severely damaged, with walls and bed badly burned. Flames also spread to the kitchen and burned the ceiling and door.

A can of gasoline on the back porch caught fire, but was extinguished before a second explosion could occur. Mrs. Pressley although painfully burned, was not admitted to the hospital.

Her hair still in pin curls from the morning's Mrs. Pressley told a News reporter at the hospital that the fire occurred so rapidly she hardly had time to know what to do.

"We were getting ready to do some ironing," she explained. "When the iron went 'whoosh,' the fire caught Vada's dress and then she started running, and that made it worse."

"I grabbed her and tried to smother the fire. I was fighting her, you know, to put the fire out."

"Her clothes were on fire and when I got her outside I kept telling her to 'Roll over, roll over!'"

"I ran and got the baby and set her out in the yard."

"Then I saw my own clothes were on fire, so I grabbed the hall curtain and wrapped myself in it, smothering the fire."

Mrs. Pressley said her daughter is expecting her second child about the 15th of next month. Her daughter's husband, Earl Paxton, works with the Davey Tree Expert Co.

Mrs. Pressley's husband was at work at Biltmore Dairies when the fire occurred. The Pressleys have a son, 13-year-old Ronald, a student at First Ward School.

"I sure hate that it hap-

pened," said Mrs. Pressley. "But I would have done anything to save my daughter and grandbaby."

"I love my daughter and I love my son, and I love her baby just like it was my own child. Our family is very devoted."

Two police officers, Patrolmen C. Q. James and W. F. Kerr, who investigated the cause of the blaze, said the old-fashioned gasoline iron had just been refilled and was not functioning properly.

The daughter, Mrs. Paxton,

was pumping the iron — in much the same way as a gasoline blow torch must be pumped — when the explosion occurred.

Officer James said the first alarm was turned in by T. B. Frazer of Mount Holly, who was driving in the vicinity and heard the explosion from the intersection of N. Davidson and 13th Sts. He said the explosion sounded "like a pistol being shot."

When Mr. Frazer reached the house, he saw his women outside in the street and pulled a box alarm.



THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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Charlotte, North Carolina, Friday, May 18, 1956



THIS IS Betty Jane Evans of 511 Lexington Ave. She's up to something. To find out just what it is you will have to look on the front page of the second section.

Cigarette Price Rise Predicted

NEW YORK — A price boost of a cent a package at retail for cigarettes probably by next week was predicted today by a spokesman for United Cigars - Whelan Stores, Inc., following a raise in the wholesale price by Liggett & Myers Tobacco Co.

Liggett & Myers has announced that effective today the wholesale price of Chesterfield regular and king-size cigarettes would be increased 45 cents on all shipments — a boost of nine cents a carton, roughly a penny a pack.

This puts the wholesale price at \$8.35 for regular and \$9.00 for king-size in thousand lots, less the customary cash discount of 2 per cent.

The United Cigar spokesman said the action by Liggett & Myers came as a surprise but that it would "definitely" mean a retail price rise, probably of a cent a package, in the more than 1,000 stores of his chain throughout the nation.

He added that, in accordance with past patterns, he expected notice of a similar price increase within a few days from other cigarette manufacturers.

Liggett & Myers said the increase was caused by higher manufacturing and distribution costs.

The move obviously caught other major cigarette producers by surprise.

At Winston-Salem, N.C., E. A. Darr, president of R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Co., makers of "Camek," said he had "no comment" on the increase.

The same response came from spokesmen for American Tobacco Co., "Lucky Strikes"; P. Lorillard & Co., "Old Gold"; and Philip Morris, Inc., "Philip Morris."

35-Bed Psychiatric Ward City's Need

By CHARLES KURALT
Charlotte News Staff Writer

A 35-bed psychiatric ward in a general hospital was named as Charlotte's minimum need by a visiting psychiatrist today.

Dr. Lloyd Thompson, professor of psychiatry at Bowman School of Medicine, Winston-Salem, said such a ward would require a staff of about 25.

He came to Charlotte today at the request of the Charlotte Eastern Lions Club to make a survey of the city's psychiatric needs.

There is now no facility in any of the four general hospitals in Charlotte for care of acutely disturbed mental patients.

CONFERENCE HELD

These facts came out in a conference of Dr. Thompson and Dr. Douglas Holbrook, local psychiatrist; Dr. Marshall L. Fisher, director of the Charlotte Mental Health Clinic, Donald Reid, new director of the Social Planning Council, and Ray Brad Lee, chairman of the special Lions committee investigating psychiatric need.

These facts emerged:

Some smaller cities in South Carolina, Columbia, Spartanburg and Greenville, have psychiatric wards in their hospitals.

At present, each of the four private Charlotte psychiatrists have an average of 10 patients each in local hospitals. "There would be more," Dr. Holbrook said, if there were adequate facilities.

During 1955, 237 patients were admitted by psychiatrists to Memorial Hospital alone. Others went to other hospitals and still others came under psychiatric care after being hospitalized.

SOME JAILED

All these patients were ones who could be managed successfully in ordinary hospital rooms. Patients who have violent tendencies are confined in county jail or admitted to the state hospitals.

Dr. Thompson said a consideration of saving in time and money could be made with a well equipped local psychiatric hospital ward.

Patients could be successfully treated in early stages of mental illness before they become so

City Acts Fast To Get Juvenile Home Open

Mayor's Group Votes To Lease Quarters

By DICK YOUNG
Charlotte News Staff Writer

Steps for the establishment of a detention home for juveniles will be taken immediately.

The urgency for such a home today led to instructions to a subcommittee of the Mayor's Committee on Juvenile Delinquency to proceed at once for rental of quarters that will serve as a juvenile detention home.

These instructions came at a conference in Mayor Phil Van Every's office this morning.

Walter Kurat, welfare superintendent and chairman of the subcommittee, said he will call a meeting soon to initiate negotiations for the home.

Rental of a building that can be used temporarily was suggested in order that some place will be available shortly to provide safe custody for youngsters who run amok of the law.

The temporary building was proposed solely to fill current needs while planning proceeds on the permanent detention facility.

In the meantime the program for a permanent detention home will proceed and in a short time, perhaps next week, local officials will go to Raleigh to inspect new buildings that have been erected for the Woman's Division of the State Prison.

These buildings are somewhat similar to the one under construction for the juvenile detention home here.

City and county governing boards have agreed to each provide \$25,000 in their upcoming budgets for the proposed detention home.

Since some time will be required to complete the planning and construction of such a home it was deemed advisable to proceed now and procure temporary quarters.

A word of caution about the suggested temporary use building was voiced by Mr. Kurat.

TEMPORARY MEASURE

"Let's not get into a temporary situation as that which obtained 15 years ago when they started to temporarily use the old county jail for detention of juveniles."

Other conferees readily agreed that the suggested rented building would be only a temporary measure and plans for the permanent detention home would proceed without letup.

Frank N. Littlejohn, City Police chief, stressed the urgency of such a place and said that it is imperative that a home be provided where these juveniles can be properly detained.



Unity Here? . . . Candidate Ben Douglas, Boss Nicholson (L)

Freshman Love Learns Well, Moves To Head Of The Class

By JULIAN SCHEER
Charlotte News Staff Writer

RALEIGH—At 8:06 p.m. on Jan. 3, 1955, a short, stout young man in a dark blue suit slipped into seat No. 23 of the House chamber of the State Capital here.

He was attending a pre-General Assembly caucus for members of the House of Representatives.

For 61 minutes Jack Love, flanked by E. M. O'Herron and Jim Vogler, sat quietly.

It was his first day in Raleigh as a green untried freshman lawmaker. He was silent that night and for most of the 35 Assembly and it wasn't until the last days of the session that he became fairly well known.

BIG CHANGE

Yesterday at 10:12 a.m., Jack Love strode into the chamber again. He had a hard time getting to a seat in the rear, for the well washers and handshakers wouldn't leave him alone.

A year before he had come here almost sheepishly.

Yesterday he was confidently and quietly bullish.

Jack Love was a Big Politician.

But just how much of an impression has he made throughout the state and how much attention is the State Democratic Party giving him?

ROLE APPEALING

The answer is more than the passing attention given most politicians, but he has not staggered the state's hierarchy as yet.

Jack Love, himself, will tell you he isn't interested in bowling over anybody, but the double role of a kingmaker and king is, apparently, appealing.

A week ago Love and some other unhappy Mecklenburg Democrats "took over" the party leadership with the promotion of W. M. Nicholson as county chairman succeeding David McConnell. McConnell was not a candidate to succeed himself.

Linn D. Garbahl, representing the same party faction as McConnell, was defeated by the Love group with the resounding Nicholson win. The "old guard" See POLITICIAN on page 2A

1956 Tax Cut Unlikely Despite Surplus Fund

WASHINGTON — Speaker of the House Rayburn (D-Tex) today he regards a 1956 tax cut as a "possibility but not a probability" even though the prospective midyear surplus has been boosted by more than \$1 billion dollars.

"That seemed the consensus among other congressional leaders in the wake of Secretary of the Treasury Humphrey's announcement that the June 30 federal surplus is now estimated at \$1,828,000,000. The last previous administration calculation, in January was 230 millions.

Key members of both parties on the House Ways and Means Committee, which initiates tax legislation, for the most part supported President Eisenhower's stand for applying any such surplus to paying off the national debt ahead of tax reduction.

Democratic leaders, however, were keeping a sharp eye on future fiscal moves of the Eisenhower administration.

READY TO MOVE

They were ready to move quickly with tax-cutting legislation of their own if the administration should indicate any intention of initiating a tax reduction program.

The new surplus estimate, sent to congressional leaders by Humphrey and Budget Director Percival Brundage, came as no surprise to Capitol Hill, where booming national income and tax receipts had been carefully noted.

Only a few hours earlier, congressional tax experts forecast a surplus of \$2,300,000,000 for 1956 and a surplus of \$2,200,000,000 for next year. Humphrey made no forecast for fiscal 1957, starting July 1.

"A balanced budget, for which the President has been striving for three years, now appears assured for the 1956 fiscal year," Humphrey and Brundage said.

Our Weather

Generally fair and mild today, tonight and Saturday. Outlook for Sunday partly cloudy and warmer.

Low this morning . . . 54
Low tomorrow morning . . . 55
High yesterday . . . 78
High today . . . 80
High tomorrow . . . 84
Sunrise 5:17 a.m.; sunset 7:22 p.m.

More Weather Data on Page 10-A

Miss Minnie Faces More Legal Action

NORFOLK, Va. — Miss Minnie Mangum, the charitable career woman accused of bilking her employer of nearly three million dollars, faced a 10-year prison sentence today but no end to her troubles.

The 29-year-old spinster was convicted in Norfolk Corporation Court late yesterday of lying to Virginia's banking regulatory agency about the financial condition of a local firm.

The case served as a prelude to next week's bigger legal battle when Miss Mangum goes on trial on a charge of embezzling \$1,000,000 from the Commonwealth Building and Loan Assn., which she served as assistant secretary-treasurer.

She also faces 14 other charges, including one accusing her of taking a grand total of \$2,884,000.

Go First to FIELDS — Expert Watch Repairs.



Minnie (L) Leaves Court On Arm Of Niece

SELECT FOREMOST Milk Products at your favorite store.—Adv.