

BOSTON NIGHT CLUB BURNS

481 Persons Lost Lives In
Holocaust

Boston, Nov. 29.—A 16-year-old bus boy admitted tonight, police said, that he accidentally started the holocaust which transformed Boston's swanky Cocoanut Grove night club into an inferno that claimed at least 482 lives.

Among the identified dead was James Jenkins, son of Colonel Walter Jenkins, of Fort Bragg, N. C.

Deputy Police Superintendent James R. Clafin said he had obtained a statement from Stanley F. Tomaszewski in which the youth allegedly admitted having started the fire when he lit a match to change a light bulb in the Melody Lounge in the basement and it ignited palm decorations.

The youth was described as a student at Roxbury Memorial High School who worked Friday and Saturday nights at the Cocoanut Grove.

Clafin said no charge had been lodged against the youth, a resident of Dorchester, but that police would question him further.

This new explanation of the worst disaster of its kind since the Iroquois Theatre fire in Chicago in 1903 developed while police were speculating that a discarded cigarette caused last night's conflagration.

The death toll of 482 was based on a United Press poll of hospitals and morgues.

May Go Higher

The death toll was expected to mount even higher, because many of the 214 persons hospitalized—including movie star Buck Jones—were reported in critical condition. Doctors resorted to blood plasma in extreme cases in an effort to keep the death toll down.

More than half of the 750 guests and employees of the smart night club were known to have perished—crushed, trampled, suffocated or burned to death in the \$250,000 flash fire which precipitated a stampede.

Earlier, investigators had discarded theories that the fire resulted from a short-circuit or that it was set maliciously as result of a night club feud. They believed that faulty exits were largely responsible for the enormous death toll.

The fire spread lightning-like through the garish and flimsy decorations and furnishings of the club's three supper rooms.

A screaming girl, who ran among the guests with her hair blazing shouting "Fire!" precipitated the panic which took a far greater toll of life than did the flames.

The gay night spot in a matter of seconds was transformed into a delirium of fright and horror.

Smiling women clawed their way toward exits through the milling mass of humanity. Many were hurled under tables and trampled to death by the crazed crowd.

Patrons tripped on stairways or fell at the exits as those behind swarmed over them and piled up, only to die.

Blazing draperies fell and ignited clothing and human hair.

Though damage to the club was heavy, the blaze quickly was extinguished.

But for six hours, seared and shattered bodies were trundled from the shambles, piled into hastily commandeered moving vans and express trucks, and shuttled to morgues and hospitals pending identification.

Boston, Nov. 30.—Charles (Buck) Jones, cowboy movie star, died at a hospital late today of burns suffered in the Cocoanut Grove holocaust during a party at which he was the honor guest.

"I don't mind disclosing now," the attending physician told the United Press, "that we had abandoned all hope for Jones' recovery immediately after examining his burns."

Jones, a 53-year-old native of Vincennes, Ind., and a longtime favorite of American boy movie fans, was the 481st person to die in the disaster.

LOUISBURG METHODIST CHURCH

Sunday morning at the 11:00 o'clock service the celebration of the Lord's Supper will be observed.

The Young People of the church are in charge of a special program of worship, Sunday night at 7:30.

The Church School convenes at 9:45 under the leadership of Prof. I. D. Moon. Join in worship at some Church in Louisburg Sunday morning. That is the best way to start the week.

The daily cost to France of German occupation would build 2,500 modern workman's homes.

DECORATED



Second Lt. George T. Lumpkin, of Louisburg, was awarded the Navy Cross for his part in attack on a Japanese carrier at Midway in ceremonies at Honolulu, Hawaii, Monday. Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, Pacific Fleet commander, decorated Lumpkin and 15 other Marine heroes on the eve of their departure for the battle zone. Lieutenant Lumpkin has been stationed at Honolulu for some weeks in training squadrons for combat duty.

Other Fires

The Boston Cocoanut Grove night club fire ranks among the nation's worst fire disasters on the basis of the toll of lives taken.

The greatest loss of lives by fire in the United States occurred in Chicago's Iroquois Theatre fire on December 30, 1903, when 602 were burned to death. The New London, Texas, school disaster of 1937 killed 455 children, but many of these deaths were attributable to the explosion which preceded the fire.

About 500 died in the San Francisco earthquake and fire of 1906.

Other major fires and their toll include:

Hoboken docks and ships fire, June 30, 1900—145.

Birmingham, Ala., church fire, Sept. 20, 1902—115.

Coal mine fire at Monongah, W. V., Dec. 6, 1907—361.

Lake View school fire, Cleveland, March 4, 1908—174.

Rhodes Theatre fire, Boyers-town, Pa., Jan. 4, 1908—169.

Triangle Shirt Works Company fire, New York City, March 25, 1911—145.

Crile Clinic Hospital fire, Cleveland, May 15, 1929—124.

Ohio State Penitentiary fire, Columbus, April 21, 1930—320.

Moro Castle fire, off Asbury Park, N. J., Sept. 8, 1934—134.

Negro dance hall fire, Natchez, Miss., April 23, 1940—198.

MAJOR VEAZEY ORDERED TO FT. LEAVENWORTH

Major A. H. Veazey, just recently appointed Special Service officer at Fort Benning, has been ordered to report for the Command and General Staff school at Fort Leavenworth, post headquarters announced Tuesday.

Major Veazey has been theater officer at the post since February of this year and has charge of the administration of all the theaters on the post. He came to Benning in 1941 and was assigned to the Second Armored division. He is a veteran of World War I.

A graduate of North-Carolina State College of Agriculture and Engineering, Major Veazey was in the soil conservation division of the United States department of agriculture before coming into active service as a reserve officer. His home is in Raleigh, N. C.

Major Veazey married the former Miss Mary Exum Burt, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. S. P. Burt, of Louisburg, and has two sons, Alex, Jr., and Perry Burt.

"Praise the Lord" . . . and Buy 'em ammunition With U. S. War Bonds.

LOUISBURG BAPTIST CHURCH

The pastor will begin his fifth year as pastor of the church next Sunday, and will give a short review of the work done, along with a preview of what is out before the church. Every member is urged to be present, and friends are urged to join in the worship with us. The subject for the morning will be "Our Church—Its Past, Its Present, and Its Future." In the evening, the pastor will continue the series of sermons on the Conversations of Jesus, speaking on "Two One-Sided Conversations."

9:45 a. m.—Bible School.
11:00 a. m.—Morning Worship.
6:45 p. m.—B. T. U.
7:30 p. m.—Evening Worship.

DATES FOR 6TH REGISTRATION

A Proclamation of the President of the United States in regard to the Sixth Registration is as follows:

"The registration of male citizens of the United States and other male persons, who shall have attained the eighteenth anniversary of the day of their birth during the periods indicated below, shall take place in the United States between the hours of 9:00 a. m. and 5:00 p. m. on the days hereinafter designated for their registration as follows:

(a) Those who were born on or after July 1, 1924, but not after August 31, 1924, shall be registered on any day during the week commencing Friday, December 11, 1942, and ending Thursday, December 17, 1942;

(b) Those who were born on or after September 1, 1924, but not after October 31, 1924, shall be registered on any day during the week commencing Friday, December 18, 1942, and ending Thursday, December 24, 1942;

(c) Those who were born on or after November 1, 1924, but not after December 31, 1924, shall be registered on any day during the period commencing Saturday, December 26, 1942, and ending Thursday, December 31, 1942.

(d) During the continuance of the present war, those who were born on or after January 1, 1925, shall be registered on the day they attain the eighteenth anniversary of the day of their birth; provided, that if such anniversary falls on a Sunday or a legal holiday, their registration shall take place on the day following that is not a Sunday or a legal holiday."

The place of registration will be the Local Board office which is located in the Armory in Louisburg, N. C. Volunteer registrars will assist the regular employees in the registration and with a week for each age group there will be plenty of time for said registration to be handled in one central place. KEEP THESE DATES IN MIND AND DO NOT FAIL TO REGISTER.

ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN

The Louisburg Branch of the American Association of University Women met on Thursday, November 19, at the home of Mrs. Walter Patten, with Mrs. V. R. Kilby, president.

Speaking briefly Mrs. Patten reviewed the plans for the year's program. The subject for study during the year will be: "The Need for International Unity in the West-War World. Much cooperation and firsthand information will be furnished by three members of the local organization; Miss Mildred Huggins, former Missionary to Japan, Miss Ruth Merritt, former Missionary to Brazil, and Mrs. E. C. Dresser, former resident of Rio de Janeiro.

The President appointed the following committees: Program, Mrs. Walter Patten; Membership, Mrs. Paul Bagby; International Relations, Miss Ruth Merritt; Creative Arts, Miss Lula Mae Stipe and Mrs. I. D. Moon; Fellowship, Miss Julia Brown Huggins; Status of Women, Miss Virginia Peters; Social Studies, Miss Mildred Huggins; Education, Mrs. E. C. Dresser; and Publicity, Mrs. Dick Yarborough.

Mrs. Dick Yarborough spoke on the Franklin County Library project. Miss Julia Brown Huggins reviewed the history and purposes of the American Association of University Women.

A congenial tea hour was enjoyed.

An improved design for a bomb in mass production will save enough steel to build two Liberty Ships.

Recorder's Court

Franklin Recorder's Court held regular session on Tuesday with a small docket and disposed of cases as follows:

Richard Patton pleads guilty to no drivers license, to be discharged upon payment of costs.

Proctor Morgan, W. S. Jones, George Jones, plead guilty to assault with deadly weapons, profanity, public drunkenness, and were given three months on roads each.

A nole pros was taken in the case of bad check against Ed Perry.

Boss Davis was found guilty of unlawful possession of whiskey, given 60 days on roads, suspended upon payment of \$25 fine and costs.

The following cases were continued:

Edward Leon Page, reckless driving.

Clarence Yarborough, reckless driving.

Fayssoux Dupree Galloway, reckless driving.

Willie Orange Johnson, operating automobile intoxicated.

Willard Perry, no drivers license.

SHEARON IS GIVEN NAVY DECORATION

Franklin M. A. Decorated Twice in Past Year For Action Against Japs

Franklin, Nov. 28.—Lt. (jg) Bruce Shearon, son of the late Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Shearon, of Franklin, has been decorated twice for bravery in action during the past year.

He was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross last March and recently was awarded the Navy Cross for action against the Japanese in the Battle of the Coral Sea.

The citation for his Coral Sea action read: "... for courageous devotion to duty and heroism on May 8, as a pilot of a torpedo plane in action against enemy Japanese planes in the Battle of the Coral Sea. In spite of heavy anti-aircraft fire and enemy fighter opposition, he closed to within a few hundred yards of the target to execute a fearless and determined attack. Scoring a hit on an enemy aircraft carrier, he thereby contributed to the severe damage and destruction of the vessel, and aided materially in the success of the operation."

Lt. Shearon enlisted in the Navy in 1929 as an aviation mechanic and in 1937 was sent to the flight school at Pensacola, Fla. He received his commission and wings in 1938. He was recently promoted to Lieutenant (jg) from ensign. He was in the United States from August to October but is now back on active duty.

CHRISTMAS OPPORTUNITIES

Since Franklin County seems to be in a fairly good financial condition there will be very few opportunities to be taken care of Christmas, stated Mrs. J. F. Michener, Welfare officer.

There are some large families whose income is insufficient for extras and some old people that need to be remembered. There are twenty-six in the county who would appreciate confectionaries and such things as the county does not provide.

Any one willing to bring Christmas cheer and happiness to any of the above can get in touch with the Welfare Department.

The Present With a Future—U. S. War Bonds.

TO TRAIN BUS DRIVERS

Mrs. Bill Pleasants Flythe of the N. C. Dept. of Motor Vehicles, Raleigh, will be in Franklin County visiting the schools the week of Dec. 7th in order to train additional School Bus drivers for the remainder of the school year, according to Supt. Wiley F. Mitchell of the Franklin County Schools.

Due to the fact that many of the present drivers are leaving to join the armed forces or are leaving to work in defense areas, it has become necessary to train additional drivers in order to keep our school buses running.

This School Bus Driver's Course is prescribed and is mandatory in the State. It consists of the Motor Vehicle Laws, the regulations concerning school bus transportation from the State School Commission as well as a road test given by the local patrolman and the Chief County Mechanic. In order to take the road test the applicant must have his or her permanent N. C. driver's license.

North Carolina has the largest bus transportation system in the union, and has received National recognition on the course prescribed for the School Bus drivers in this State.

Franklin County has 64 buses and 112 certified drivers. So far this year there has not been a single accident. We are indeed anxious to keep this fine record and not have it marred by the carelessness and recklessness on the part of any bus driver, and let's all drive safely and protect life and limb.

The schedule for the schools is as follows:

Monday, Dec. 7th—Youngsville, Franklin High School (White), Franklin Negro (Albion Academy).

Tuesday, Dec. 8th—Louisburg High School, Franklin County Training School, Epsom High School.

Wednesday, Dec. 9th—Gold Sand, Perrys, Edward Best.

Thursday, Dec. 10th—Bunn, Gettsemane.

MASONS ELECT OFFICERS

Louisburg Masonic Lodge No. 413, elected officers for the new year at its regular communication Tuesday night.

The following officers were elected:

Worshipful Master, John F. Matthews.

Senior Warden, I. P. Wheeler.

Junior Warden, James Speed.

Treasurer, J. L. Palmer.

Secretary, Dick Yarborough.

The following appointments to lesser offices were also announced soon after the election:

Chaplain, A. Paul Bagby and John Edwards.

Stewards, J. Y. Cooper and S. N. Rowe.

Tiler, W. B. Beasley.

The installation ceremonies will be held on Tuesday night, December 15th.

In addition to the election work in the first degree was extended to several candidates in waiting, and a most interesting meeting was held.

All members are urged to attend the installation services.

CELEBRATES 70th BIRTHDAY

Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Gantt, Sr., entertained at their home on Spring Street, their children and grandchildren on Sunday in celebration of Mr. Gantt's 70th birthday, which occurred on Wednesday, Dec. 2nd. In addition to the pleasure of having most all of them present, a bountiful dinner was served and contrary to the usual custom Mr. Gantt gave to each of the children as a remembrance of the occasion a five dollar bill.

Those present and enjoying the occasion were Mr. and Mrs. H. G. Leonard and children, Misses Ruby and Nellie, Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Collier and children, Miss Helen and Clyde, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Roy Gantt and children, Misses Deleathan and Nancy, and George, Mr. and Mrs. R. W. May and family, Misses Christine and Elizabeth, Edward and Douglas, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Pearce and daughter, Frances, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Lambert. All the grandchildren except one who is in the Navy, were present.

The occasion was greatly enjoyed by all.

An Alabama farmer, with a 654-pound dead hog on his hands, remembered the fats salvage campaign and telephoned the State rationing officer, who made arrangements to have the animal rendered down for use against the Axis.

Keep Down the Cost of Living by Keeping Up War Bond Buying.

ENTERS U. S. ARMY



Wilbur M. Jolly, well known local attorney, who was an associate of W. L. Lumpkin, attorney, in Louisburg, has joined the armed forces of our country.

Mr. Jolly, who had been accepted as an Officers Candidate by the army, left Wednesday, November 25th for Fort Bragg to be inducted into the army. Attorney Jolly will serve a three months period of basic training before he enters Officers Candidate School, and at the completion of his schooling he will be commissioned a second lieutenant in our armed forces.

Mr. Jolly was born in Ayden, N. C., and received his elementary education in the public schools of Pitt County. In 1932 he entered Wake Forest College, later to graduate from this institution with a B. S. degree. After graduation from college Mr. Jolly taught school at Gatesville, N. C. for two years.

During his teaching career Mr. Jolly decided to study law, and in the summer of 1938 he returned to Wake Forest College to study law and graduated in June 1941 from this institution with an L.L.B. degree.

In September 1941 Mr. Jolly came to Louisburg to practice law with Attorney, W. L. Lumpkin, and has been associated with Mr. Lumpkin from that time to his present induction into the army.

Mr. and Mrs. Jolly have made lasting friendships while living here, and Louisburg has suffered the loss of two of its finest young citizens, and will be only too glad to welcome them back home with open arms after Mr. Jolly has finished his job with Uncle Sam's Army.

ROWE-AYSCUE

Miss Gertrude Ayscue and Mr. Malcolm Rowe were happily united in marriage, Nov. 26, 1942, at the home of Rev. T. W. Lee, of Middleburg, N. C., officiating using the ring ceremony.

She wore a blue street length dress with brown alligator accessories, with a corsage of sweetheart roses.

Mrs. Rowe is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Ayscue, of Henderson, N. C., Route 2. Mr. Rowe is the son of Mrs. W. G. Rowe, of Louisburg, N. C., Route 2.

MRS. HARRINGTON ENTERTAINS

Mrs. Frank Harrington entertained her bridge club and a number of additional guest Monday evening at 8:00.

Mrs. H. J. Lewis won high score for visitors and Mrs. Edgar Fuller received high for club members.

Mrs. Harrington, assisted by several club members, served assorted sandwiches, hot tea and nuts.

Those playing were: Mrs. William Wilson, Mrs. Numa Freeman, Mrs. Edgar Fuller, Mrs. W. H. Horton, Mrs. W. G. Lancaster, Mrs. W. F. Shelton, Mrs. H. J. Lewis, Mrs. Alex Wood, Mrs. Limer, Mrs. Jim Allen, Mrs. J. A. Pearce and Mrs. John F. Matthews.

PROGRAM AT THE LOUISBURG THEATRE

The following is the program at the Louisburg Theatre, beginning Saturday, Dec. 5th:

Saturday—Roy Rogers, Smiley Burnette and Gabby Hayes in "Heart of The Golden West" and James Ellison and Heather Angel in "The Undying Monster". Also Chap. 2 "King of The Mounties".

Sunday-Monday—Betty Grable, John Payne, Carmen Miranda, Cesar Romero and Harry James and his Orchestra in "Springtime in The Rockies".

Tuesday—Donald Barry and Jean Parker in "The Traitor Within".

Wednesday—Allan Jones and Jane Frazee in "Moonlight in Havana".

Thursday-Friday—Fred Astaire and Rita Hayworth in "You Were Never Lovelier".

WAR NEWS

Washington, Dec. 2.—American troops killed 51 more Japanese and captured three field cannon and six machine guns in continued mopping-up operations on Guadalcanal Tuesday as Army planes hammered away again at enemy positions, the Navy reported today.

A communique said soldiers and Marines carried out "extensive patrols" along the outskirts of American positions beyond Henderson Airfield—actions designed not only to nail down gains but gradually sap the enemy's strength.

One Army and two Marine patrols accounted for the latest clean-up. The Army unit killed 11 Japanese and took a 70-millimeter gun. One Marine outfit killed 25 enemy troops and captured a 75-millimeter and a 38-millimeter cannon in the upper Lunga River west of Henderson Field, while another moved down 15 Japanese and captured six machine guns.

While these operations were in progress, Army planes pounded Japanese positions.

The pattern of action indicated that the Americans were giving the enemy a taste of his own medicine—the kind he dished out against the fallen defenders of Bataan. That strategy is to wear down the foe piecemeal, harass him from the air, cut him off from his supply lines and starve him out.

London, Dec. 2.—Allied armies have shattered and hurled back the heaviest German counter-attack of the Tunisian campaign and front-line reports tonight indicated that the decisive battle for Bizerte and Tunis had been joined.

The Allies met the biggest German counter-attack they have so far encountered in Tunisia north of the rail junction of Tobourba and within 35 miles of Bizerte.

Allied headquarters announced that the Germans suffered "heavy losses."

In the continuing action, United States P-38 pursuit planes were reported to have knocked out a number of German tanks in the Djedda area near Tunis.

There also were reports of heavy action around Mateur, 12 miles southwest of Bizerte, as the Allied column drove on toward the coast to cleave the naval base from Tunis, the capital.

Fierce fighting also was reported at the apex of the Allied wedge around Djedda, 15 miles northwest of Tunis. The battle in this sector, where the Axis has concentrated the bulk of its forces, was believed by London observers to be entering its final phase.

Tunis Under Fire

Tunis was reported by Reuters News Agency to be within artillery range of the forward Allied forces. Pont Du Fahs, a strategic point near the capital, was stormed by French troops while British parachute troops occupied another important airfield in the Bizerte area, forcing the Luftwaffe to resort more and more to Sicilian bases.

DNB, the Official German news agency, reported that a German tank attack on Tebourba was "particularly successful," resulting in "heavy losses" for the "retreating" Americans.

The Allied headquarters communique today said Allied bombers were keeping up their assaults on the airfields at Tunis and Bizerte.

Light bombers and fighters also are operating in support of the forward troops, the communique said. It acknowledged the loss of five planes, but declared that seven enemy aircraft were destroyed.

A hint that the British Navy soon would be heard from in the seashore action was contained in the communique, which said briefly, but significantly that "The Royal Navy is assisting in the provision of cover for the advance of our forces."

London, Dec. 2.—Benito Mussolini, coughing and puffing defiance through a long speech in answer to Prime Minister Churchill's threat to bomb Italy out of the war, admitted to his countrymen today that Italy had been fogged into the conflict by "the belligerents", but assured the people that they now would fight on to the end.

"I have a vague impression that the Italian people want to hear me," he said.

Then he told them that the Germans "have beaten the Russians", that "victory cannot fail to come to the Axis" and that he "was not surprised by the (Allied) invasion of North Africa."

Of the imminent Allied threats to Italy from North Africa, the continuing bombings of the country from British home bases and the added raids promised by Churchill from newly-acquired airfields across the Mediterranean, Mussolini said:

"There now is no longer an external and internal front; there