

Fire Prevention

Plan And Practice Fire Escapes

By THOMAS FLYNN
Syndicated Columnist

When fire strikes at night, there's no time to ad lib. Every family member must know what to do to save his or her own life, and do it. Making sure that all family members -- even small children -- know what to do in a fire is the province of home escape planning. Making sure that, when the time comes, each family member uses that knowledge and displays appropriate escape behavior is the province of the home fire drill.

You have a smoke detector? Good. Sleep with all bedroom doors closed tightly? Great. Are there two ways out of every sleeping room -- emergency ladders in second floor rooms if necessary? Excellent. Do all family members know to crawl to the door and feel it, escape through the window if the door feels hot, and meet at a pre-arranged place? Fabulous.

BUT -- and this is a big but -- in a real fire emergency, full of noise and smoke and heat, it's easy to forget what you know. Home fire escape plans must be reinforced by frequent, unpredictable drills.

Presumably, each member of your family was present when you drafted your home escape plan and each has used the escape equipment provided in his or her room at least once. But why not, late some night, hit the test button on your smoke detector and see what happens?

If you see anything less than smooth execution of your home escape plan by every family member, you'll be able to go over it later -- critiquing performances and strengthening the weak points. Real fires seldom give you a chance like that.

Will the six-year-old hide under the bed instead of crawling to safety (keeping close to the floor, where the best air is)? Will the teen-ager be able to open that window you recently repainted to deploy the escape ladder? It's better to answer questions like this at a time when lives are not at stake than to find out about shortcomings in your escape preparedness the hard, tragic way.

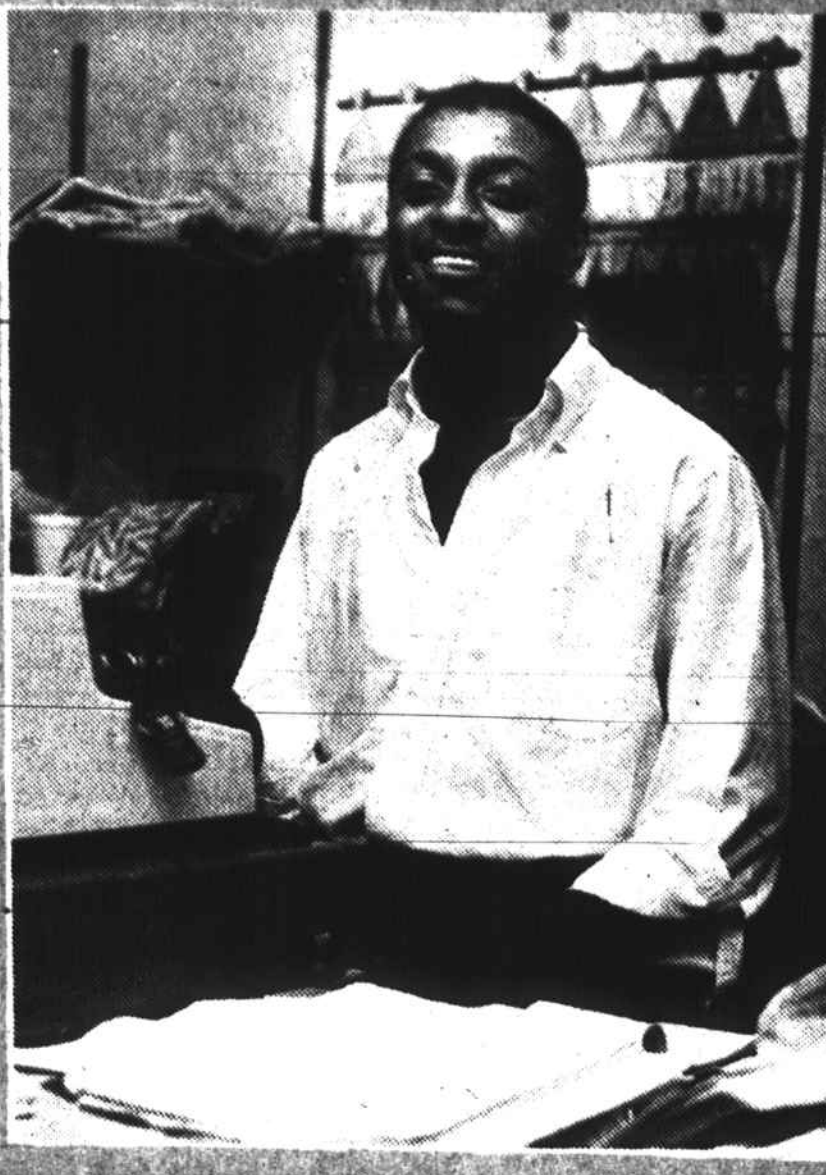
Plan to conduct home exit drills frequently at different times of day or night, at varying intervals. Make your tests as unpredictable as fire itself, and remember the goals of home escape planning:

- Provide positive fire detection (a smoke detector) and two ways out of every room (door plus window).

- Crawl wherever you go if smoke is present. Feel the door before opening; if it's warm or hot, don't open it. Exit through the window instead.

- Have all family members meet at a specific site for head counting; call the fire department from a phone outside the burning building, after everyone is out.

This column is brought to you weekly as a public service of the Chronicle and the Winston-Salem Fire Department.



Someone You Should Meet ...

Someone You Should Meet ...
Name: Steven Anthony Settle
Job Title: Manager, Raleigh, Doleman's Men's Apparel
Hometown: Winston-Salem
Hobbies: Boxing, basketball, football and track
Describe yourself in one word: "Smooth"
Favorite book: "Martin Luther King Jr.: I Have A Dream"
Favorite Movie: "Rocky"
Person admires most: Martin Luther King Jr.
Career Goal: "To manage a retail establishment."

(photo by James Parker)

NEWS DIGEST

National, state and local news briefs compiled by John Slade

Black Group Launches Pro-Reagan Campaign

WASHINGTON -- A group of blacks last week announced its support for President Reagan in the 1984 presidential election.

The small organization, called "Blacks for Reagan," only has "seven or eight members," said Jay Parker, spokesman for the New Right committee, which is backing the group.

John T. Dolan, head of the National Conservative Political Action Committee, said at least \$200,000 will be spent on advertising and direct mail in an effort to get

blacks to vote for Reagan.

National polls have shown little support for Reagan among blacks. A CBS-New York Times poll in June said only 10 percent of black Americans favor the president's re-election.

Actress Mabel King and businessman Henry Miller were at the press conference, which was held Aug. 30 at the Lincoln Memorial, where 300,000 people had gathered three days before to condemn Reagan and call for a new commitment to civil rights.

'Coalition For Conscience' Plans To Lobby

WASHINGTON -- The broad-based coalition that drew 300,000 demonstrators to Washington Aug. 27 to commemorate the 1963 March on Washington will now lobby for specific "jobs, peace and freedom" legislation, said Walter Fauntroy last week.

Fauntroy, the District of Columbia's non-voting member of Congress and chairman of the march, said the immediate goals of "The New Coalition of Conscience" include passage of the reintroduced Equal Rights Amend-

ment, a bill to create jobs in areas of high unemployment and legislation to make Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday a national holiday.

The coalition's central office will provide 325 local offices with manuals "outlining the targeted legislation, the local legislators' voting records and publicity and lobbying hints," said Fauntroy.

The one-year-old coalition will maintain an office in Washington.

Klan Sponsoring 'Miss White N.C.' Pageant

WILKESBORO -- Joe Grady of Winston-Salem, head of the White Knights of Liberty, announced last week that his group will hold a Miss White North Carolina pageant and a Ku Klux Klan rally in Wilkes County Saturday.

Robert Graham of North Wilkesboro and the father of Deneen Graham, the reigning Miss North Carolina and

the first black to win the pageant, asked the Wilkes County board of commissioners to halt the Klan's plans. But the board said that it did not know what could be done.

In addition to the contest and the rally, the Klan will hold a cross burning, said Grady.

Crime Prevention

Local Man Robbed At Knifepoint

The following "Crime Box Score" is designed to keep you abreast of criminal activity in your community during the past week and to help protect your family and property from crime.

Armed Robbery

- 400 block, North Cherry Street
While walking in an alleyway between Cherry and Trade Streets, the complainant was approached by two black males who robbed him at knifepoint. Both suspects were later arrested, however, and, after being identified by both the complainant and a witness, were placed in the Forsyth County Jail.

Kidnapping And First-Degree Rape

- 400 block, West 30th Street
The victim was kidnapped by three white males as she left a concert, driven to an unknown location by her abductors and repeatedly raped.

Strong-Armed Robbery

- 4200 block, Carver School Road
A 90-year-old complainant was struck from behind by assailants he didn't see, beaten in his back and robbed of money. The complainant refused medical treatment.

Rape

- While walking to a relative's house, the victim was confronted by a man who jumped out of the bushes, knocked her to the ground and sexually assaulted her.

Common-Law Robbery

- 300 block, East 13th Street
The complainant was sitting in his car when the suspect approached and asked him for a cigarette. Once he gave the man a cigarette, the suspect grabbed his victim's arm, pulled off his gold watch and fled.

Housebreakings

- 2600 block, Manchester Street
An outside storage unit was broken into and four mopeds were stolen.

800 block, Cameron Avenue

- Two speakers, a Sanyo cassette deck, a stereo equalizer and an RCA portable television were taken.

- 100 block, Lowery Street

As the complainant came home, two suspects ran out of her house. Nothing was taken.

- 1300 block, Wentworth Street

Clothing and a .22-caliber rifle were taken.

- 1200 block, Gray Avenue

The complainant came home to discover a black male in his bedroom. A fight ensued and the suspect escaped.

Larceny

- 1300 block, Free Street

Money was taken.

- 2600 block, Pendleton Drive

Money was taken.

- 2500 New Walkertown Road

A wallet and money were taken.

- 1500 block, East Sedgefield Drive

A trail bike was taken.

For Children:

We all have to be careful when we're outside, but children face special problems. So be sure to pass along these safety tips to your youngsters:

- Be careful if a stranger
- tries to give you money or candy.
- asks you to go somewhere or to get into a car with him.
- tries to follow you.
- tries to touch you.
- hangs around the playground.
- Instruct your children to walk away if a stranger does any of these things and to tell you, teachers or a police officer what happened.

This column is brought to you weekly as a public service of the Chronicle, the Winston-Salem Crime Task Force Inc. and the Winston-Salem Police Department.

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