

Identify 68 Victims Of Disaster In Film House; All Children

Children Perished in Stampede Which Followed Discovery of Fire Under Balcony of Theatre.

HOUSE FILLED AT TIME OF BLAZE

From Three Exits Patrons Moved Out in Order But at Fourth Children Stampeded at Shout of "Fire."

Montreal, Jan. 10.—(AP)—Victims of a movie disaster more tragic than ever flickered on the silver screen, 75 children lay dead today crushed or suffocated by a fire stampede Sunday in the Laurier Palace, a theatre in Montreal's east end.

This morning 68 of the little victims had been identified at the city morgue while eight others still awaited recognition. Autopsies established that 60 of the children died from asphyxiation, eleven were crushed, and five lost their lives from a combination of asphyxiation and burns.

The tragedy was caused by fear as the fire which started from the main balcony was comparatively trivial. The Laurier Palace is a two-story building with a stone and brick front, and has been in operation several years. The seating capacity is about 1,100 and it was well filled yesterday with the usual large number of children.

The palace has four exits, two at the front into which the stairs from the balcony lead, and two at the side opening into a lane which leads to a side street.

Sunday's performance featuring a comedy film, "Get 'Em Young," a deadly irony in light of the disaster that was to follow—was barely underway when there was a flicker of flame and a belch of smoke from the projection room beneath the balcony.

Someone saw it—accounts differ as to whether it was a small boy or an usher—and the dread cry of "fire" was raised.

Those in the balcony, terrified by the billows of smoke and the heat of the flames, began to rise. Some fell sideways, down which they struggled, swaying and shouting. An usher succeeded in restoring some order to those stampeding down the west side stairs, but on the east a terrible panic developed, and it was here that the worst of the tragedy occurred.

The tide of children and adults flowing to the street level was suddenly halted. Someone had fallen. With panic redoubled, those behind feeling the breath of the fire behind them surged downward, and the stairway became a mass of shrieking humanity.

Children were borne underfoot to be trampled. Others were caught and crushed by pressure of surrounding adults. Still others, similarly pinioned, were suffocated. Those in the rear were caught by the flames.

Firemen arriving from St. Catherine Street East station found the stairway inextricably jammed with the lowliest part of the mass only a few steps from the main floor. Attempts to relieve the pressure by pulling at individual members of the tangle were unavailing. Firemen tied a rope about the body of one child in the hope that it was the key log of the jam, but they were unable to budge it.

Then, as the quickest way through, they smashed a hole in the street wall and formed a human chain, passing the victims through the opening.

Heavy snowstorm is raging in Western North Carolina. Asheville, Jan. 9.—Snow which started falling shortly after dark is covering the western North Carolina plateau with a heavy white blanket tonight.

STATE IS COVERED WITH SNOW TODAY

Snow Fall Ranged From 8 Inches at Greensboro to Comparatively Light Fall in This Section.

Charlotte, Jan. 10.—(AP)—North Carolina today was blanketed with snow virtually from the coast to the Tennessee boundary, and from Virginia to Georgia and South Carolina. The fall ranged from eight inches at Greensboro and seven inches at Winston-Salem to a comparatively light fall at Gastonia.

Temperatures which had been low for several days moderated following the snowfall and in many places the flakes were melting slowly today. Hickory reported three inches of snow; Asheville two; Salisbury three; Raleigh four; Charlotte one; and Gastonia reported a light fall following rain.

TELLS OF SUCCESS OF INTER-OCEAN TELEPHONY

Radio Operator at Raleigh Heard the Experiments in Progress. The Tribune Bureau, Sir Walter Hotel, Raleigh, Jan. 10.—W. L. Nelson, radio operator for the State Department of Agriculture, was satisfied "I told you so," smile when the success of inter-ocean telephony, as he took reports from Washington, he heard the experiments in progress.

"Why, you'd think that it would take great paraphernalia to hear such conversations," said Mr. Nelson, "when, as a matter of fact, I heard the experiments on a \$30 tube radio receiving set that I made myself. For days the experiment was going on, and I would pick them up while tuning in, for reports I receive. You see, my set was wired up to about 4000 meters at that time. I could always hear the American fellow very clearly and could, most of the time, tell what he was saying. I could hear the Londoner, too, but he usually sounded like he was merely muttering. Occasionally I could understand a word here and there. On one occasion I heard the American operator talking to London and the fellow at the British end was from what I gathered, the superintendent of the cables over there."

"Once I heard the American operator ask somebody in New York if there was anybody in London he wanted to talk to. He replied in the affirmative, and a little later the conversation was in progress. It seemed as if the outgoing portions of the conversations were routed through a station up in New England, while the incoming portions came by way of the New Jersey coast."

"I am glad the experiments succeeded, but the announcement was not news to me."

MUSCLE SHOALS PAYS \$59,210 NET REVENUE

Hydro-Electric Plant at Wilson Dam and Steam Plant Far Exceed Operating Costs. Washington, Jan. 10.—A total net operating revenue from the Muscle Shoals electric plants of \$59,210 was reported for the calendar year of 1926 in figures made public today by the war department. During the year the hydro-electric plant at Wilson dam generated for sale to the Alabama Power company 428,265,88.5 kilowatt hours of electric power.

Receipts from the sale of power total led \$572,617 with maintenance and operation costing \$173,777, leaving a net operating revenue for the plant of \$698,839.

For the steam plant under lease to the Alabama Power company, receipts for power generated \$40,370, a net revenue of \$169,370.

With Our Advertisers. The Bell & Harris Furniture Company has many attractive pieces of furniture on the floors of their big store.

Cline's Pharmacy will deliver anywhere in the city. This week is a good time to start your bank account for regular deposits at the Citizens Bank and Trust Co.

The Boyd W. Cox Studio has employed an excellent local fisher. Boots and over shoes, just the thing for the snow and slush, at the Park-Bell Co.

Mother Grieves



Grief was apparent on the face of Lady Aiko Yanigawara, mother of the late Emperor Yoshihito. This picture, taken during his fatal illness, is the first of the lady to arrive in this country.

IN FAVOR OF A STATE HIGHWAY POLICE FORCE

Sentiment Seems to Be Growing Among Members of Legislature. The Tribune Bureau, Sir Walter Hotel, Raleigh, Jan. 10.—Sentiment in favor of a state highway police force or constabulary seems to be growing among the members of the general assembly, despite the fact that the creation of such a force was not definitely recommended by Governor A. W. McLean in his message, although he did recommend an act requiring that all operators of motor vehicles be licensed.

However, the fact that the first statewide bill of importance to be offered in the general assembly was one to provide for the licensing of drivers of motor vehicles and to provide a state highway patrol force presented by Senator Lloyd J. Lawrence, of the first district, has brought the question squarely before the minds of the legislators. And so far the idea at least has been given very favorable reception.

Such measure is badly needed," said a member of the legislature in discussing the question of a highway police force. "For too long motorists have been permitted to run wild on the highways of the state without any attempt at regulation. The drunken and reckless drivers have terrorized law-abiding motorists long enough. And I am convinced that the time has come for the creation of some regulatory law-enforcing patrol force that will assist in reducing the constantly mounting highway toll in the state, which was more than 400 lives during the past year."

And similar expressions are heard from others to the same effect. Of course, there is the fear on the part of some that it cannot be financed without imposing a burden on the people. But the proponents of the highway police and the licensing of drivers plain maintain first that no one should be permitted to drive a motor vehicle who cannot afford to pay at least one dollar a year for a driver's license, and that the driver's license will be of little value without the highway police force to see after its enforcement, as well as the enforcement of other highway regulations. They say that for the most part the laws of the road are sufficient now. If there was only some means of enforcing them. And the highway police force would provide this means.

Some fear has been expressed by a few that Senator Lawrence would be opposed to any changes being made in his measure, but, according to Senator Lawrence himself, this is not the case. He declared that while he believes his bill would be effective, he is in no sense committed to it as a whole, and that his chief desire is for the enactment of legislation looking toward the establishment of a highway police force, and that he will gladly co-operate with those who have changes to suggest.

The attitude of the part of Senator Lawrence has been reassuring to the Carolina Motor Club and allied organizations, whose attorney, Albert B. Cox, is now preparing a highway police measure. However, the bill is expected to advocate the placing of the highway police force under the direction of the commissioner of revenue, rather than the highway commission, as is the case of the bill offered by Senator Lawrence.

The fact that the movement for a state highway police force is being vigorously advocated by Frank Page and the highway commission, by R. A. Doughton, commissioner of revenue, and by Stacey W. Wade, commissioner of insurance, gives some evidence of the support which the measure that is finally agreed upon will have. It is generally understood that still another measure, prepared through the collaboration of the highway and revenue departments, will be introduced.

Thus it seems very likely that very serious consideration is to be given the highway police question, and that there is much favorable sentiment toward it already.

The city of Duluth plans to have seven outdoor public hockey rinks this season and St. Paul has plans for fifteen.

Certainty Of Punishment Will Check Lawlessness, Judge Says In Charge

Judge John M. Oglesby, in Charge to Grand Jury, Challenges Agencies and Individuals to Meet Situation Created by Law Violators in the State.

"What shall it profit the State of North Carolina to be a leader in agriculture, industry and education and lose its soul on the altar of lawlessness?" was the challenge of Judge John Montgomery Oglesby, of Concord, in his charge to the grand jury here this morning at the opening session of the January term of Cabarrus Superior Court.

"The certainty of the law will check the wave of crime that is sweeping North Carolina and other states," Judge Oglesby said, and he challenged the school, the home, the church, the court and every citizen interested in the proper development of the State to rise in their might against the lawless element that is escaping now behind "petty excuses and sentimentalities."

"We have no more serious duty than to see that the law is properly enforced," Judge Oglesby said in the beginning of his charge, "and there is no better way to see to this matter than to see that the law is properly enforced. It is useless to talk about our system of jurisprudence being wrong. It is the simplest and one of the best in the world, founded on the basis that the average man is interested enough in the well-being of his community to help in the enforcement of the law. When the jury, and the court do their duty we shall have less crime."

There are only two elements, righteousness and unrighteousness, Judge Oglesby continued, and it is the duty of the public to determine which shall prevail. "We must have the law, sponsored by the criminal element."

Persons called to jury duty, Judge Oglesby said, should feel honored. "The State calls only men of good character and sufficient intelligence to act on matters likely to come before them," he said, "and we should respond without hesitation. It is as much our duty to serve in this important duty in time of peace as it is to serve the colors in time of war."

"We are leaders in agriculture, in industry, in education. We have churches on every hill, yet we are faced with the serious problem of leading also in murders. The reason is lack of respect for constituted authority. This we find in the home, in the school, in the pulpit and in the court. It is estimated that 225 homicides occurred in North Carolina last year. Since 1920 there have been more than 1000 homicides in the State. This condition should challenge the finest agencies in the State. It should challenge every individual interested in the proper development of the State."

"What does it profit the State to be a leader in agriculture, industry and education and lose its soul on the altar of lawlessness?" "Those who violate the law should be punished."

There is no middle ground," says the prosecution in trial of Texas Pastor. Austin, Texas, Jan. 10.—The death penalty will be asked by the prosecution in the trial of Dr. J. Frank Norris, charged with the murder of D. E. Chipp, District Attorney J. D. Moore announced today. The trial opens here tomorrow with selections of a jury.

Moore's announcement came after a conference among prosecution attorneys, including District Attorney Jesse Martin, of Tarrant county, in which is Fort Worth, where the shooting occurred last July. The case came here on a venue change.

The state's theory of the killing of Chipp in the study of Dr. Norris' church, the First Baptist, is that Chipp was slain by Norris, and that this is sustained by evidence, the pastor, renowned as a fundamentalist, should pay the extreme penalty. The shooting took place when Chipp called at the pastor's study to protest against attacks by the minister on Mayor H. C. Meacham, Chipp's friend.

"If Norris' theory of the killing is correct, he should go free; if our theory is correct, he should be executed," said William McLean, of Fort Worth, special prosecutor. "There is no middle ground."

While the prosecution lawyers were in conference, the pastor and his attorneys conferred at a hotel a block distant. Dr. Norris arrived here from Fort Worth last night.

In his hotel room today, the pastor-slayer appeared to have unshaken confidence that he would be acquitted. His reply to questions concerning the forthcoming trial, was to cite two passages of scripture.

His first was the 35th Psalm: "Commit thy way unto the Lord."

His second was Romans 8:28: "Know that all things work together for good."

Both the prosecution and defense said they were ready and would not ask for delay. The trial will not last long, Mr. McLean said. "It will take only a day for the prosecution to present its principal evidence," he said. "I believe all the evidence will be in by next Saturday."

SEES EVIDENCE OF MEXICAN ARMS AND AID IN NICARAGUA

In Explaining Nicaraguan Policy President Says Arms Bear Evidence of Coming From Mexicans.

Washington, Jan. 10.—(AP)—Explaining his Nicaraguan policy to Congress today President Coolidge declared in a special message that munitions of war supplied to Scaena revolutionists bear evidence of having belonged to the Mexican government.

He added that gun runners to the Scaena group apparently have been fitted out in Mexico with the "encouragement of Mexican officials, and in at least one case sailed under the captaincy of Mexican reserve officers."

He described the American policy in Nicaragua as one of thorough protection to American interests, in conformity with the traditional stand of the United States.

"The proprietary rights of the United States in the Nicaraguan canal route," the message said, "together with the obligations flowing from the investments of all classes of our citizens in Nicaragua, place us in a position of peculiar responsibility."

The message reviewed at great length the American attitude toward the Nicaraguan controversy, which the president said was grounded in the traditional policy of the nation to "take the steps that may be necessary for the preservation and protection" of American lives and property.

"I have the most conclusive evidence," said Mr. Coolidge, "that arms and munitions in large quantities have been on several occasions since August, 1926, shipped to the revolutionists in Nicaragua."

"Boats carrying these munitions have been fitted out in Mexican ports and some of the munitions bear evidence of having belonged to the Mexican government."

"It also appears that the ships were fitted out with a full knowledge of, and in some cases, with the encouragement of Mexican officials and were in one instance at least commanded by Mexican naval officers."

The message continued that the United States cannot "ferret to view with deep concern any serious threat to stability and continuational government in Nicaragua," especially if "such a state of affairs is contributed to or brought about by outside influence, or by any foreign power."

"I have deemed it my duty," said the President, "to use the powers committed to me to insure the fullest protection of all American interests in Nicaragua, whether they be endangered by internal strife or by outside interference in the affairs of that republic."

THE COTTON MARKET

Opened Steady at a Decline of 2 Points to 1 Point Advance. New York, Jan. 10.—(AP)—The cotton market opened steady at a decline of 2 points to an advance of 1 point, active positions showing net losses of about 5 to 7 cents, with March selling off to 12.88 by the end of the first hour. There had probably been some buying late last week in anticipation that unsettled weather conditions would develop rains in the South. Nothing of that sort was shown by the early news, the outlook being for fair and colder weather, and there was some liquidation or re-selling during today's early trading. Increased spot sales in Liverpool and favorable reports from the Manchester goods market attracted bullish comment, but these features evidently failed to make much buying power, and reports of better progress with picking late cotton in the north central belt were accompanied by some Southern selling here.

Cotton futures opened steady: January 12.79; March 12.90; May 13.13; July 13.32; October 13.51.

FIRE IN PHILADELPHIA

Three Hundred Pupils in Catholic School Trapped by Smoke. Philadelphia, Pa., Jan. 10.—(AP)—Three hundred pupils of the parochial school of Our Mother of Sorrows Church at 48th St. and Lancaster Avenue were trapped by smoke when fire swept through the gymnasium in the basement today.

Firemen and volunteers climbing ladders to the third floor of the fire resisting stone building, carried the children and their teachers down to the street in safety.

Fifteen hundred children with 35 nuns and two lay teachers in charge were in the four-story building when the janitor discovered the fire which was confined to the gymnasium.

WEATHER FORECAST. Generally fair tonight and Tuesday, except snow flurries in the extreme west tonight; somewhat colder tonight to fresh north and northwest winds.

RANDOLPH-MACON ACADEMY AT FRONT ROYAL IS BURNED

Two Hundred and Fifty Students Forced From Their Beds Into Freezing Night.

SERIOUS INJURIES TO FIVE STUDENTS

Loss of \$100,000—The Fire Started From Over-Heated Furnace—Boys Jumped From Windows.

Front Royal, Va., Jan. 10.—(AP)—Two hundred and fifty students of Randolph-Macon Academy here were forced from their beds and into the freezing night by a fire that destroyed the three-story main building early today with a loss of \$100,000. Perhaps a score of students, all in their early teens, were injured, five of them seriously.

The blaze originated in the basement, probably from an overheated furnace, and spread so rapidly that many of the students were forced to jump from the dormitory windows on the second and third floors. Most of them stopped to gather belongings and had narrow escapes, and nearly all clad in scanty night attire, suffered from the cold. The ground was covered with snow and the thermometer registered several degrees below freezing. The five most seriously injured were taken to a hospital in Winchester, and the other students were taken into homes here.

The fire was discovered at 4:45 o'clock in the basement of the academy and spread rapidly in all directions of the building. Front Royal firemen were powerless, and soon the structure, standing on a high hill, was destroyed. The loss was partly covered by insurance. The loss of personal effects of students is expected to increase the total damage.

The institution was a unit of Randolph-Macon system, under the patronage of the Baltimore conference, Methodist Episcopal Church, South. Prof. Charles Melton, the principal, was unable to say whether the school would be rebuilt in the near future, but said the students probably would be sent to their homes today.

Chocolate Bon-bons Filled With Whiskey. Atlanta, Ga., Jan. 8.—Chocolate bon-bons filled with whiskey are thought to be the latest innovation in bootlegging.

The candies were of French manufacture and were sent to Atlanta as Christmas gifts from friends in Paris. The contraband confections have been confiscated by deputy customs collector, it is stated, and will be forwarded to customs officials for disposal.

Says Home Will Conform To North Carolina Laws. Charlotte, Jan. 10.—C. Henry Edwards, attorney for the American Repeal Workers here announced today that plans were under way to make the home here comply with the suggestions of Mrs. Kate Burr Johnson, head of the State Board of Charities and Public Welfare.

Mrs. Johnson recently announced that the home had not met all the State laws regulating such an institution.

25 Below Zero in Part of New England. Boston, Mass., Jan. 9.—An unexpected cold snap, bringing the lowest temperature of the winter in many sections, spread over much of northern New England today and stretched icy tentacles as far south as Pittsfield, where a minimum of 25 degrees below zero was reported this morning.

The mercury ranged from 15 to 20 below zero at Montpelier in northern Vermont. In Boston and other points farther south, average winter temperatures prevailed.

5,000 Homeless in Manila. Manila, P. I., Jan. 10.—(AP)—Five thousand persons were made homeless and 1,500 houses, mostly of the small frame or nipa variety were destroyed in a fire of undetermined origin which swept the Tondo district of Manila today. The loss is estimated at 2,000,000 pesos. No deaths were reported. The blaze started in a church. Authorities are investigating.

Despite its name Graeco-Roman wrestling bears little resemblance to the style of wrestling in vogue among the ancient Greeks and Romans.

Star Theatre advertisement for 'YOU NEVER KNOW WOMEN' and other shows.

CONCORD THEATRE advertisement for 'THE FLAMING FOREST'.