

Sidelights Of Community's Worst Calamity

Local Red Cross Chapter Right On Job

Within forty minutes after the explosion, the local chapter of the Red Cross, under the direction of H. G. Hammett, chapter chairman, and J. C. Brown, disassembler, swung into action. The chapter provided a home for Bryson and family, and furnished some necessary furniture and food, in addition to having their clothes dry cleaned, as they were made unfit for use by the explosion which swept through the home.

Other families made homeless by the explosion were offered assistance by the chapter, but had made arrangements to stay with relatives for the present.

The Red Cross also aided in getting families together, after they had become separated during the fire.

J. C. Brown, is asking all persons who have any household equipment or kitchen utensils that they are not using to make some contributions to those who lost everything in the fire on Tuesday morning.

Anyone wishing to make such a contribution is asked to get in touch with Mr. Brown on Pigeon street, phone 425-M.

News Of Explosion Traveled Fast

News of the disaster spread thick and fast.

By eight o'clock, newspapers, radio stations and news services were calling in for all available information.

The story was featured in a number of news broadcasts throughout the day, and made page headlines on papers throughout the country.

The bare facts of the tragedy were cleared by nine, and then began the long tedious task of assembling bits of news from here and there for the complete story that happened. Almost every newspaper presented a new angle, which had to be carefully followed.

The news staff of The Mountaineer worked from the time of the explosion until late Tuesday night gathering information for this paper as well as news agencies and continued to call for more.

The Asheville Citizen-Times had a special photographer and

Why don't you try hanging up an average week's washing some time, Mister?

★

Even a he-man would be tired out after a big day's washing. Yet many a he-man expects his wife to do the job he wouldn't tackle for love or money. Besides, housewives have plenty of other work to do.

WAYNESVILLE LAUNDRY

PHONE 205

SQUARE DANCE

At The Armory
EVERY FRIDAY AT 9

Sam Queen Calling
Boney Franklin's Band Playing

Admission 25c

Coming Friday, July 24

Ray Whitley and His 6 Bar Singing Cowboys IN PERSON ON OUR STAGE

Also One of Ray Whitley's Musical Comedies

AND A FINE FEATURE PICTURE AND LATEST NEWS

—All For Only—
10c FOR CHILDREN AND 30c FOR ADULTS (Including Tax)

MATINEE AT 3 P. M.—NIGHT SHOWS 7:10 & 9:30

PARK THEATRE



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EXPLOSION PICTURES

Pictures of the damaged area will be found on pages 3 and 4. These photographs were made by Jimmy Rogers, of the Asheville Citizen-Times.

(Continued from page 1)

and lost her shoes. In looking for her lost footwear, a man's shoe and hat were found. The owner of the shoe came limping by and claimed it. The hat remained in the grass.

A series of small blasts were heard throughout the fire. Officials stated that they were caused by cans of oil, exploding in the warehouse.

The last of the flames died out at 6:30 Tuesday afternoon, 15 hours after the first explosion.

The bodies of Mrs. Caldwell and two children were burned almost beyond recognition. Their limbs were burned off, and much of the flesh of the trunk of their bodies burned. Mr. Caldwell's face was charred black, and his body badly burned. He lived four hours at the hospital and talked to his son, Tommy, thirty minutes before he died. The four were buried in separate graves.

Andy Caldwell, one of those who died, must have suffered agony, as he left his burning house, where three members of his family died, Tuesday morning his tracks of blood were found from the house for 100 yards, at which point he was picked up and taken to the hospital by policeman Noland.

The plant had three gasoline storage tanks. One held 16,000 gallons and two held 18,000 gallons each. How much was in the tanks at the time of the explosion has not been ascertained. Another tank with a capacity of 8,000 gallons was used for kerosene, and the fifth tank, also with a capacity of 8,000 gallons was used for storing fuel oil.

The clocks in the residence of Mr. C. M. Dieus, on Church street on the hillside just above the plant were stopped suddenly by the jarring of the explosion. The hands pointed to 3:20.

Mrs. Paul Walker and three children had a narrow escape. She said the spilling gasoline sounded like rain. Mr. Hardin warned her to move away and not to strike any matches. About that time her neighbor, E. C. Moody, arrived, and Mrs. Walker got her children up and drove away. They were several blocks away when the explosion occurred. Her home was flattened, and covered with gasoline, and immediately burned. Mr. Walker and son, Paul, are working in a shipyard in Baltimore.

Firemen shuddered to think what might have happened, had the transport been filled with oil instead of gasoline. The burning oil would have covered scores of people.

Had the burned transport truck had the switch key in it at the time, it is believed that it could have been moved to safety. Several men, led by David Underwood, attempted to drive the truck with its load of 4,000 gallons of gasoline away, but could not find a switch key. When the \$6,000 transport exploded, it sent a shower of flaming gasoline hundreds of feet in the air, as women screamed and men scrambled for safety. One man was reported injured by a falling piece of timber. His name was not learned.

Local Firemen Praised For Heroic Work

Under the direction of Robert Hugh Clark, about 25 Waynesville firemen and volunteer firemen, together with air raid wardens, strung hose lines from four hydrants on all sides of the flaming tanks.

Because of the intense heat, hose had to be played almost constantly on the houses occupied by W. C. Fincher, E. C. Moody and Charlie Bryson, as well as the plant of the Pure Oil Company and the West Coal yard, which are also just across the street and tracks from the Standard plant.

When the first explosion went off, the fire department sounded the alarm for air raid wardens to respond, as it was not known at that time what the trouble was.

"The response of all volunteer firemen and wardens was immediate, and they worked hard every minute," Mr. Clark said.

The men were completely around the plant yard when the transport truck exploded, but fortunately not a one suffered injuries.

The Canton fire department sent a pumper-truck over, and laid a hose line and put out a blazing coal car, which was set by the exploding tanker.

A carload of firemen from Asheville were here and offered assistance, and Chief Fitzgerald of Asheville consulted with Mr. Clark about the critical situation.

"The heroic work of our brave Waynesville fire department kept the loss of property to a minimum. In spite of burning oil and the dangers of such a fire, every man stuck to his post," Mayor J. H. Way said in commenting on the work of the department.

Funds Being Raised For Fire Victims

Provisions were made yesterday at the First National Bank for the public to contribute to the fund that will be used in helping those who lost heavily in Tuesday's devastating fire.

James Noland, cashier of the bank, was named treasurer, and what money is received will be pooled with some that is available through the sale of scrap metal recently gathered by citizens of the community. The scrap metal sold for \$1,382.31. Of this \$300 has been turned over to the Salvation

The explosion was heard as far as Maggie. Houses in all sections of community were jarred. Windows a block away were broken out.

So intense was the heat, that trees 1500 feet away were scorched.

A hose was run to the bulk plant of Pure Oil, and tied to the tanks to keep them cool. The Pure Oil plant is almost directly across the street from the Standard plant.

Several thousand gallons of fuel oil did not burn, and this was drained from the tanks Wednesday morning. Several barrels of tar remained intact, in spite of the tremendous heat of the fire.

Three trucks were burned at the Standard plant. A pick-up and two tank trucks, used for delivering gasoline.

The plant had five overhead tanks. Three upright, and two horizontal, together with a pump house, and office warehouse building. The horizontal tank nearest the street was blown 200 feet away. The others remained in position.

Only a few new tires were in the warehouse at the time. A normal inventory of oil, greases and accessories were on hand.

Mr. Hardin told The Mountaineer Monday evening, that he had 21,161 pounds of scrap rubber on the yard at his plant. This was burned.

Even Tuesday afternoon, two of the large tanks—one of crude oil and one of kerosene—were burning, and resembled huge candles, as the flames shot 10 to fifteen feet in the air.

Rumors spread thick and fast. Even within an hour, vivid tales of what happened were being told, and for the most part to fit the imagination of the teller.

The wives of the two injured truck drivers are here, and are being provided for by the Red Cross. At present they are at the home of Rev. and Mrs. H. G. Hammett. The drivers are from Spartanburg. Mr. and Mrs. Taylor have two children, and Mr. and Mrs. Walkup have a two-month old baby.

As a precautionary measure three firemen, Clem Fitzgerald, Jack Edwards and Tom Gilliland stayed on the scene all night Tuesday night. They reported large crowds visited the scene until a late hour. Even late yesterday, a line of cars a block long, were parked on Water street, as occupants looked over the damaged area.

A number of officials and insurance men were on hand Wednesday, making preliminary check-ups, and taking pictures of the destroyed property.

All three of the large upright tanks still have gasoline in them, according to Mr. Johnson, an official of Standard Oil, who was on the scene Wednesday afternoon. One of the upright tanks got red hot, but did not explode. He would make no guess as to the volume of gasoline in them. The tank of fuel oil also remained intact, and was scheduled to be emptied this morning, as soon as trucks arrived from Asheville. Watchmen will remain on the scene 24 hours a day.

Mrs. J. T. Glenn, who resides in "Gourd Vine Cottage," on Church street was aroused from her sleep and grabbing her young

granddaughter to escape from her house found she was locked in and no sign of the key she had left in the door the night before. After searching around she found it in a far corner of the room, where it had been flung when the explosion had shaken it out of the door.

Never has there been such a public parade of nightgowns and pajamas in the community as was unexpectedly staged during the early hour on Tuesday morning. Only a few took time after the explosion and the fire alarm to do other than grab a coat. One observant person stated after that there was no doubt that blue was the favorite color of the men in the community, for pajamas, and pink for the girls.

The matter of keeping on bedroom slippers and shoes was an uncertain problem. For many of those who gathered as near to the scene as possible, prior to the first blast, took no time when the second terrific roar came, to remove themselves as fast as they could. In the exit from the grandstand places, many of them lost one and some both shoes.

Fields of corn and pastures in lots adjoining the plant have turned brown as if it were winter.

A construction foreman of Standard Oil arrived Wednesday to make a preliminary survey of the damage. No statement was issued as to when salvage work might begin.

Records from the office were smoldering late yesterday. The

Green Tree Tea Room Moves To Hotel Gordon

The Green Tree Tea room moved yesterday from its Main street location to the dining room of the Hotel Gordon.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry A. Rung, owners and operators, announced they would operate at the Hotel Gordon until further notice, and close the place next to Massie Furniture Store.

The move was made in order to better serve the public, and larger crowds. The Rotary and Lions Clubs will meet at the Gordon in the private dining room as they did until last January.

thick books had fallen under a lot of tin, and had escaped the tons of water poured on the area. A member of the construction crew put it out.

"I don't know how high the flames went, but they must have reached the moon," said J. F. Cabe, when someone asked him Tuesday morning how the fire looked from his home nearby the plant.

A portable typewriter which had been in the home of Mrs. Paul Walker, was thrown out on the ground and found in good condition after the fire. The case was burned, but the machine undamaged.

Remembrances embellish life but forgetfulness alone makes it possible.—General Cialdini.

Dr. Roberson Has Charge Of Program At Medical Meeting Tonight At 8

Dr. R. Stuart Roberson will be in charge of the program of the regular monthly meeting of the Haywood County Medical Society, which meets tonight at eight o'clock at the nurse's home.

Dr. C. N. Sisk is president and Dr. J. F. Pate is secretary.

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT

Mr. and Mrs. James Randleman announce the birth of a son, James Michael, June 3rd, at Wilmington. Mrs. Randleman is the former Miss Louise McCracken, daughter of the Rev. and Mrs. R. P. McCracken, and for several years she taught in the schools of this county.

No Longer A Dream MAGIC DIP-N-SQUEEZE

After years of research—becomes a reality. A spoonful in a gallon of water into which you dip a silk dress, squeeze a little and presto, your dress is not only clean, its truly clean. You do not have to rinse. You simply dip-n-squeeze—hang up to dry. Softens the hardest water, removes perspiration acids and body odors. Leaves sweaters luxuriously downy soft. It's a real beauty bath for silk, nylon, rayon, satin, lace, wool, etc. Makes them sparkle with that new like freshness.

Agents Wanted
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FOODS

Pure LARD - - - 4 lbs. 65c	Pure LARD - - 8 lbs. \$1.29
American Ace MATCHES - - 6 for 25c	5c Value SALT - - - 3 for 10c
24 Oz. Health Club BAKING POWDER - 19c	White House Fruit Pectin - - 2 for 27c
SURE JELL - - 2 for 25c	JAR RINGS - 5 doz. 25c
Cup and Saucer or Plate With Gold Medal Oats - - - 23c	1 Cereal Dish FREE With Miller Wheat Flakes - 2 for 25c
YUKON'S BEST FLOUR 24 lb \$1.15	PALMOLIVE 3 for 21c
GOOD VALUE FLOUR 24 lb - - 80c	SUPER SUDS Small 10c Large 25c
Delicious CHERRIOATS - 2 for 27c	NEW KLEK 2 for 15c
Blue Rose RICE - - - - lb. 10c	OCTAGON SOAP 4 for 19c
Patna RICE - - - 2 lbs. 25c	OCTAGON Toilet Soap 3 for 15c
16 Oz. JFG PEANUT BUTTER - 25c	OCTAGON POWDER 4 for 19c
No. 2 1/2 Can Pie Peaches - - 2 for 23c	OCTAGON CLEANSER 3 for 15c
Prepared MUSTARD - - - qt. 13c	32 Oz. JFG MAYONNAISE - - 32c
	No. 2 1/2 Broken Sliced PINEAPPLES - - - 25c
	47 Oz. Can Blue Bird Grapefruit Juice - - - 21c

Specials From Our Large Market

Rath's Sliced Ra-Corn BACON - - - lb. 29c	Skinless WEINERS - - - lb. 19c
Kraft American & Velveeta CHEESE - - 2 lbs. 59c	Selected Picnic HAMS - - - - lb. 32c
Sliced BOLOGNA - - - lb. 19c	Native Rib STEW BEEF - - lb. 15c

Native and Western MEATS - Dressed Hens - Fryers

BALENTINE'S

Main Street "Good Things To Eat" Waynesville