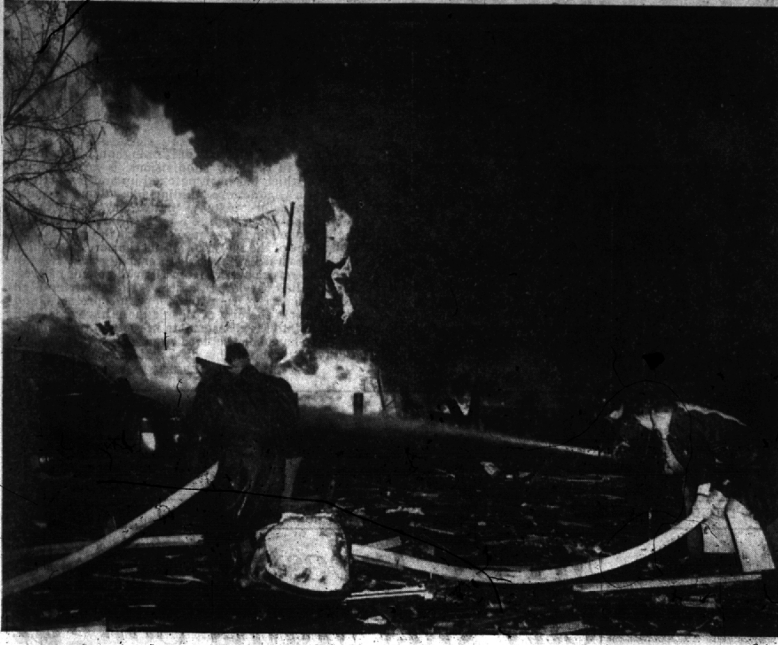


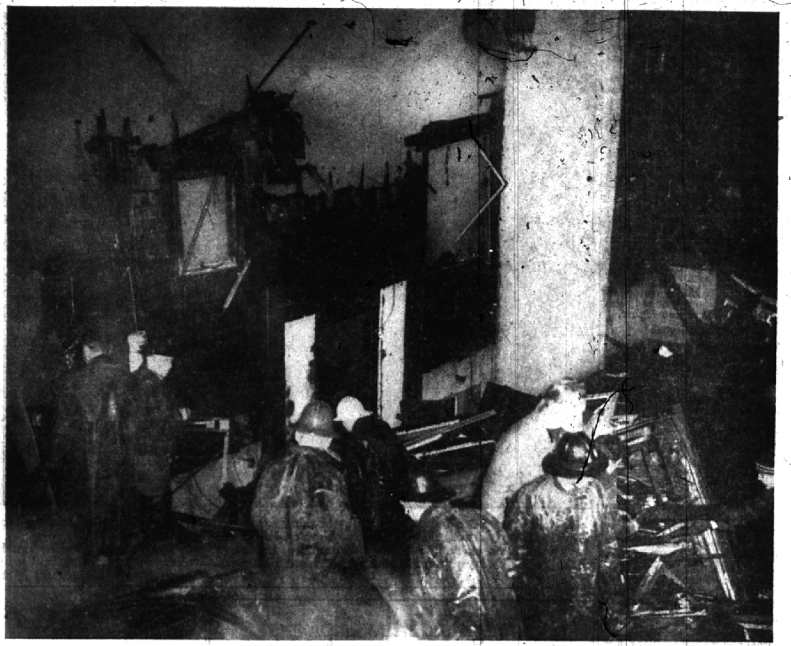
Here Are More Pictures of Sunday Night's Antique Shop Explosion and Fire



When daylight arrived Monday morning, the total destruction of the blast and fire were clearly evident (Photo by Joe Wheeler)



The above two photos, also taken by Joe Wheeler, show firemen battling to control the flames resulting from the explosion Sunday night at the Mother and Son Antique



A few hours after the blast, firemen attempt to search the ruins for the bodies of the five victims. (Photo by Joe Wheeler)

Lee C. Carroll Fund

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fellow-worker. Lee Carroll's passing is the first ever to occur in the line of duty in the history of that department. Today, Fire Chief Vern W. Griffith's men are saddened by the loss of their friend.

Already many Birmingham residents have indicated to The Eccentric that they shall not forget such heroism. They have voluntarily come forward with financial contributions, requesting that this newspaper accept them from the community, to be turned over to Lee Carroll's family.

Several Hundred Dollars Already Contributed

The Eccentric accepts this worthy assignment, and announces that already several hundreds of dollars have been received.

It not only will aid Lee Carroll's family, but will serve as a morale lifter to the members of the Fire Dept.

Personally, I have been a close observer of the Birmingham fire department for the past 30 years; from the days when it consisted only of volunteers, with old "June Bug", a small chemical and hose truck, to its present paid staff and complement of splendid men and efficient equipment.

In my opinion, there is no better, loyal, or more efficient public service agency in Birmingham than our fire department.

If you, the citizens of this community, wish to make contributions to the Lee C. Carroll Fund, The Eccentric will gladly accept the responsibility of forwarding them to Mrs. Carroll and her daughter. You may mail or bring your contributions to our office. Make your check payable to The Eccentric—Carroll Fund. If you send cash, attach your name to the contribution. (In keeping with many requests, The Eccentric will not publish the names of those who make possible this Fund.)

Griffith's Report

(Continued from Page One)

is the fact that these high pressure lines are used for distribution and transmission lines to supply Pontiac, Mt. Clemens, and many cities on the lake shore, Royal Oak, and Ferndale, for Birmingham is the distribution point for the Panhandle supply lines which have their regulator station on the Fourteen mile road just east of Pierce Street.

"Consumers Power Company made a written promise to the Public Service Commission following the recent Adams accident on Hazel Street, that they would by-pass Birmingham with this transmission line in not too distant future, for the reason that they could not get materials at that time because of the war shortages. In my estimation, it is not soon enough to by-pass our city with this transmission or high pressure line.

"We Can't Wait Any Longer"

"In view of what has just happened, I do not see how we can wait any longer. Consumers Power is a large enough company, and has enough service crews and contractors available, to converge on this city and do this job in a comparatively short time.

"3. Most of the mains in service in the old area of the city are not buried below the frost line. Many are laid close to a foot and a half from the surface, in spite of the fact that they are carrying high pressure or transmission gas. Every one of these lines should be buried below the established Michigan frost line.

"4. Every service line that enters the basement of any home in the city of Birmingham should be connected by one length of pipe—not less than 20 ft. in length, where possible, directed to the street, with no couplings or cut threads (for this thread cutting takes away one third of the metal strength). Where it is necessary that a service pipe approach a building from an angle, approved flexible couplings such as Dressler or Dayton should be used. These

practices are also followed by reliable competitive companies.

"5. It is my recommendation that the city of Birmingham not be treated as a small town, but be recognized as the distribution point for this company—which it is—and that the Consumers Power Company put on adequate help to detect these sudden decreases of pressure, and maintain a service they can be proud of, such as other utilities in this city are doing, and that the men who formulate the policies of the Consumers Power Company in this area adopt a more cooperative attitude.

Recommends That Work Start Immediately

"It is my recommendation that this work be started immediately before frost sets in the earth, and that the city of Birmingham provide inspectors enough to determine that every inch of gas distribution system outside of any home or building in the city is properly and safely installed, for we have had little or no trouble with the gas appliances in the homes when they are approved and inspected, as they should be.

"I am not nor have I ever condemned gas as a utility, insofar as the appliances are concerned, but I want at this time to publicly condemn the distribution system in this city. For I am not going to sacrifice any more men in an attempt to justify such a system as now exists.

"In the future, it is the responsibility of the occupants of any house or building to evacuate or get out when they are told to do so by the Fire Department, whether over the phone or at the scene of a suspected gas leak. We are now adopting a new policy in the control of these leaks, and neither the occupants or men serving the Fire Department are to be exposed in the future. We cannot treat this system any longer as one we can trust."

New Signals Up, In Operation at Woodward, 14 Mile

The new 14 Mile-Woodward traffic signals were erected and placed in operation yesterday by the State highway department. Local police warn motorists to exercise caution for a few days until drivers become familiar with the new installation.

The erection of these signals climaxes a three-year campaign by The Birmingham Eccentric to have the lights placed at this dangerous intersection. The Eccentric was joined by efforts of city officials and a number of local residents.

Two other intersections—Haynes and Chapin—will get new signals next spring. At that time the entire US-10 signal system will be coordinated by a master control box.

500 Plates Sold

The first 12 days of license plate sales in Birmingham have seen some 550 new plates issued, Charles Mortensen, Chamber of Commerce manager, said most of the sales were to out-of-towners who must buy early to allow for car title transfers from their former states of residence.

Returns to Duty

Police Sergeant Henry Timm, who underwent an operation at St. Joseph Mercy hospital a short time ago, has returned to duty. Timm is in charge of the traffic safety program in the Birmingham schools.

Vacation Schedule

Birmingham public schools will close next Wednesday afternoon for the Christmas holidays. Classes will be resumed on Tuesday, Jan. 3.

SANTA CLAUS LETTERS

In today's issue, the youngsters in the kindergarten and first three grades at Quarton School express their Christmas desires in their "Letters to Santa Claus". You will find these letters beginning on