



(1) WHERE FIRE BEGAN; (2) BOYS' BEDROOM; (3) MOTHER'S BEDROOM
Rescue was made from room at-rear of house



LARRY COUPER

MRS. MAURENE COUPER

DANNY COUPER

Fire

(Continued from Page One)

There could not possibly be any other survivors in the house, they turned their attention to extinguishing the fire.

In brief minutes the flames were subdued to the point where firemen could enter the house.

Mrs. Couper's body was found sprawled in the upstairs hallway at the threshold of a bathroom inside which the body of Danny was found.

Lying on the floor beside his bed in the right front second-floor bedroom was Larry's body.

IT IS BELIEVED the three died of asphyxiation.

"Although their bodies were blackened with smoke, they did not seem to be badly burned," Griffith said.

He and a doctor who lives in the neighborhood both were of the opinion the victims had died some time before the flames had reached the upstairs.

Cops gave the following account of the tragedy when he was interviewed at the hospital at 3 a.m. Monday by Chief Griffith:

"I was awakened by the smell of smoke and went to my bedroom door to see where it was coming from. When I opened the door I was driven back by flames that were racing up the stairway and into the other bedrooms. I then went to the window and called for help," Cross related.

"We are convinced the fire was burning for at least an hour and 15 minutes before it was discovered," Griffith said.

"A clock found in the first floor den where the blaze originated had stopped at 11:22 p.m. Another found upstairs had stopped at 12:15 a.m.," Griffith said.

Mrs. Maureen Couper, 38, Lake-side, and her daughter, Barbara, 16, had been visitors at the Couper home Sunday night.

THEY LEFT at 11 p.m. at which time Mrs. Couper said she was going to retire. Cross and the boys had come to bed earlier.

It is believed the fire may have started from a lighted cigarette which fell on a davenport in the den, or from a shorted TV set.

Griffith said the fire probably started shortly after 11 p.m. and had smoldered for some time before pressure from heat caused downstairs windows to break and let in air that fanned the fire to a blazing inferno.

ALTHOUGH THE hour was late, scores of curious lined the sidewalks in the vicinity of the fire, many clad in pajamas and housecoats.

Some expressed car-borne opinions that firemen were not doing all that could be done.

James Cozzens, 975 Suffield, a recent candidate for Birmingham's city commission, arrived at the scene shortly after the general alarm had sounded and admits that from a spectator's viewpoint, it appeared that little was being done to put out the blaze.

"After checking with fire department officials Sunday morning, I discovered that rescue work at the back of the house unseen by the audience at the front, accounted for an initial delay in efforts to fight the fire," Cozzens explained.

"The terrific heat that had built up in the house made it impossible for firemen to start spraying water until all attempts at rescue had been completed, Fire Chief Griffith said that if water had been sprayed on the flames immediately, the resultant steam would have made it impossible for firemen to search the home's interior," he added.

IT WAS THE first home fire fatality in Birmingham since 1942 when an elderly man died in a fire blamed on a lighted cigarette dropped by the man as he was smoking in bed.

On Dec. 11, 1949, five persons were killed in an explosion and its resultant fire at the Antique Shop on N. Woodward.

Estimated damage to the Couper home and its furnishings was between \$50,000 and \$70,000, Griffith said.

FUNERAL SERVICES for the victims were conducted Wednesday afternoon at the Bell chapel of the William R. Hamilton company. The Rev. Glen Harris of the First Presbyterian church officiated. Burial was in White Chapel cemetery.

Maureen D. Couper was born May 30, 1914, in Detroit. She was a member of Plum Hollow Golf club and Zeta Kappa Delta.

Survivors include her husband, Thomas; her father, Lawrence W. Cozzens, Sr., of Phoenix, Ariz., who was here on a fishing trip; and a brother, Lawrence W. Jr., of Phoenix.

Thomas Daniel was born Feb. 15, 1942, and Lawrence Walter was born June 30, 1939, both in Detroit.

Board

(Continued from Page One)

must furnish their own transportation.

SUPERVISED playground activities will be conducted weekdays at city parks and school playgrounds. Craft centered programs will be held at Quarten, Erve and Adams schools from 9 a.m. to 12 noon; at Torry school from 9 to 12 and 1 to 5 p.m. and at Barnard school from 1 to 5:15 p.m.

An instrumental music program will be held at Baldwin school under the direction of Arnold Bennett, high school band director. Beginners as well as experienced players may participate. Registration is required and a \$2 fee for the entire course will be charged. Those wishing to participate in the program who do not have their own instruments will be able to rent them.

TENNIS COURTS at Elton park are being planned for later in the summer. Bids for construction of four courts were opened at the municipal building last week. An announcement on a program at the courts will be released upon their completion.

A day camp at Springdale park for boys and girls eight years and older will feature woodcraft, playground, tennis, golf, cook-outs and general crafts. If weather is bad an indoor program will be held. Children must bring their own lunches and provide their own transportation to the camp. Daily registrations at the camp headquarters must be made, and groups will be limited to 50 individuals per day.

OTHER SPECIAL events, such as sports tournaments, band concerts and picnics will be announced later by the recreation board.

Persons wishing to register or seek further information concerning a given program may do so by calling the recreation office at Hill school.

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FAIRMONT'S
COTTAGE CHEESE lb. Carton 25^c

OSCAR MAYER
COOKIE DOUGH 12 oz. Pkg. 35^c

LEAN & TASTY—FRESH
GROUND BEEF 39^c lb.
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Hawaiian PUNCH 2 for 69c

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STUFFED OLIVES No. 16 Jar 79c

Crosse & Blackwell
Creme Mushroom
BISQUE SOUP 2 tins 55c

Premier—Pint Jars
SWEET PICKLES 3 for \$1.00

Appian Way—The Original
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Real Fresh Fruit Strawberry Tarts . . . 3 for 49c
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Danish Pineapple Candy Crunch Sweet Rolls 3 for 40c
Delicious Fudge Nut Loaf Cakes . . . 65c each
Delightful Orange Nut Cup Cakes . . . 6 for 45c
Almond Apricot Filled Danish Coffee Cakes . . . 75c each
Whole Wheat Glazed Donuts . . . 68c per dozen
SPECIALTY BREAD—A DIFFERENT VARIETY EVERY DAY
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Almond Crunch Coated Donkers . . . 6 for 36c
(FRIDAY & SATURDAY ONLY)
Butter Almond Layer Cakes . . . 70c each
(FRIDAY & SATURDAY ONLY)
Father's Day Decadent
Chocolate Layer Cakes . . . \$1.75 each

Board

(Continued from Page One)

LEMONADE, 6-oz. Tins . . . 3 for 55c

FRENCH FRIES, 9 oz. Pkgs. . . 2 for 33c

BROCCOLI SPEARS, 10 oz. Pkg. . . 27c

CUT CORN, 10 oz. Pkg. . . 2 for 39c

PARKEN
LEMONADE, 6 oz. . . . 2 for 33c

Introductory Offer Henri's
FRENCH and
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