

Groves Fire Still Under Investigation

Birmingham fire officials still are investigating the cause of a blaze that caused an estimated \$15,000 damage to the apartment of Donald W. Groves last Tuesday night. The fire completely destroyed the third floor apartment of the large home at 511 Bates. Fire Chief George Scott said the blaze started in a storage space behind a wall in the kitchen of the apartment. The tragedy was the second in a week to strike the Groves family. On Dec. 3 they learned their son Michael, 27, Army captain and honor guard of the late President

John F. Kennedy, had died of a heart attack. The Groves are living with relatives on Ruffner Avenue until their apartment is repaired.

Santa

(Continued from 1-A)
bunkport, the moon had gone behind a cloud and not one single reindeer knew which way was north.
"Oh, dear," said Santa, "I've got so many places to visit yet. I wish I hadn't listened to Fastus and his new-fangled ideas."
All of a sudden, Comet jingled his bells, one, two, three times, which mean "turn left" and there right ahead of them was another cloverleaf.

It wasn't the same cloverleaf, of course, but Santa said, "We may as well take it. It will go someplace where there are girls and boys and stockings."
But when the sleigh was nearing the cloverleaf it almost hit a flight of ducks—who should have been further south anyway—and of course the sleigh went right by the interchange and onto the over-charge.

You know what? They were lost again.
JUST THEN a very late vixen, left over from Halloween, passed overhead and Santa yelled, "Where are you?"
And the witch yelled right back, "Alas and alack, you must turn back. Don't you know this is Mackinac?"
"Well, that's all right," said Santa, "we haven't been here yet, yet, so we've been to a lot of places I DON'T know."
Then Vixen said, "Let's stop and ask for directions." (She was a lady reindeer.)

"Not on your life," said Cupid. (He was a man reindeer.)
"Now don't fight," said Santa, "we can't ask directions and keep showing ourselves anyway. It's against the rules."
"Maybe we'll see a scout car," moaned Dunder who was getting very dizzy.
"I see some lights," said Vixen, "right down below us."
Down zoomed the sleigh.

"WELL, I NEVER," said Santa Claus. "Would you look at that sock—biggest one I ever saw. And outdoors, too, up high on a pole."
"How silly can you get?" snorted Blitzen.
Well, Santa sort of slowed the sleigh up and leaned way out and somehow filled the sock with toys, even though the wind was blowing it in all directions.

All of a sudden Vixen squealed in a most unladylike manner.
"I know where we are, I know where we are."
"Where?" everybody yelled.
"I know where we are, I know where we are," she yelled.
"Hee! Hee! Ho! Ho! Ha! Ha!" laughed all the reindeer.
And Santa laughed the hardest of all.

WHEN HE HAD wiped the laughter tears out of his eyes, Santa turned on the two-way radio—putting that in the sleigh was the only good idea Fastus had ever had—and called the airport for directions.
After all, airports know the best routes.

As a matter of fact, the airport told him the best way 'round the world was the way he had always gone.
Before he left, Santa took the wind sock filled with toys and dropped it down the Idlewild chimney. In place of the wind sock he left a big red and white Christmas stocking.

There are some pilots—who have been good all year—who insist that that same red stocking is up there every Christmas Eve. Other people never see it.

ANYWAY, that's how Santa Claus got lost one year and also why he got home so late that Christmas morning.
If you're wondering what happened to old Fastus, well Santa sent him to Idlewild to learn a thing or two. He flunked out of the control tower and the baggage department so they sent him home.
Trouble is, now he wants Santa to send him toys by jet.
Santa just smiles and says, "You can put that idea in your wind sock and smoke it, Fastus. I can get 'round faster and better in my sleigh."
And he can.

Resident Gives Acre to City
Birmingham architect and plan board member Linn Smith and his wife have donated a one-acre parcel of land to the City.
The property, which is between Linden Park and Southfield, adjoins Linden Park and lies on either side of the Rouge River. It is attached to other City-owned property.
Smith said he was giving the land to the City "as an expression of deep affection for the community and of my confidence in its future development."
Commissioner William E. Roberts termed Smith's action as "one of the nicest gestures I've seen in my years on the commission."
Commissioners Monday night passed a formal resolution accepting the land and thanking the Smiths for their contribution to the City.

Language

(Continued from 1-A)

the students.
"Don't forget, it's summer 'down there' and I'm usually on my summer vacation," she laughed.
"The family usually spends the holidays at a resort, where we can swim and get a sun tan. But we do put up a few branches of pine, and trim it with lights, tinsel and Fake mistletoe," she said.

"No, we don't hang up stockings, because we don't have fireplaces!" laughed Noelena.
"Santa Claus" is replaced by "Father Christmas" in Australia, and tradition also calls for a hot pudding to be served on Christmas Eve which is filled with fruits and gifts of money.
"It doesn't really feel like Christmas," said Noelena. "Most of the pictures in books show lots of snow, and this really destroys the illusion!"

SANTA CLAUS comes on Dec. 5 in Belgium, said Peter Polder-vantrout in Brussels.
"That is St. Nicholas' Day, when he visits the children on a white horse, dropping presents in their boots," he said.
"Christmas Day is called the Feast of Peace, and we toast each other with champagne and have a dinner of rabbit or pheasant, after which we light the candles on the tree," said Peter.

"Christmas in our country is a 'holiday of happiness,' when the family gets together to visit," he said.
DEC. 1 IS called the "small" Christmas in Finland, according to Tommi Kihlberg of Helsinki.
"Offices and schools close early, and the people feast on a native dish of cereals and rice. There is a lot of fun and dancing," said Tommi.

"On Christmas Eve, after church, the family feasts on roast pig, rice and fish, then they exchange gifts," he said.
"Our tree is trimmed with candles, topped by a star."
Christmas is a quiet holiday in Finland. "People stay home, rest and relax. It is a family day."

CHRISTMAS BEGINS on Dec. 22 for Danish schoolchildren.
"We bring ornaments to school and decorate our desks, and the teacher tells us Christmas stories. After we assemble in the gym, where a huge tree has been trimmed, we sing carols," said Gitte Hansen of Hesselager.
"On Christmas Eve we light the candles on our tree and have a dinner of duck, rice and almond pudding. The one who finds the largest almond gets an almond gift," she said.

"The family joins around the tree to sing carols, after which we give our gifts to each other."
"Christmas day is a quiet day. We usually visit relatives or go skiing," she said.
Christmas traditionally begins on

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Dec. 1, the beginning of the Advent season, in Germany.
"We begin to light our circle wreath that is hung from the ceiling 4 weeks before Christmas," said smiling Gabriela Glassing of Hamburg.
"Santa Claus comes on Dec. 6, and the children put their shoes outside the door so they will be filled with nuts and candy," she said.
"We trim our tree with chocolates and real candles, which are lit on Christmas Eve. Ever since the division of Berlin, Germans also light a candle in their window at 7 p.m. to remember the people in East Germany," said Gabriele.
"But in Germany, as in other countries, it is truly a feast of joy."

Next Two Issues:
Dec. 27, Jan. 3
For its next two issues, The Birmingham Eccentric will publish a day later than usual.
The Eccentric will publish on Friday, Dec. 27, and on Friday, Jan. 3, instead of Dec. 26 and Jan. 2.
All deadlines are revised and all advertisers and news contributors are asked to submit their copy as early as possible.
This week's paper constitutes the Christmas issue of The Eccentric. Next week's will be our annual New Year's edition.

Comments from...
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Award Winner
Fire Marshal Harvey Renshaw (left) presents the Birmingham Fire Department's seventh annual certificate of merit for fire safety to Bernard F. Powell. The award is presented annually to the business establishment, public building or individual who has made an outstanding effort to promote fire safety. Powell is president of Powell Management, Inc., owners of the Briggs Building, Birmingham Theater Building and a building at 136 Brownell for which the award was given.

Route
(Continued from 1-A)
Zoo begins, the freeway goes slightly to the south, utilizing 10 Mile Road and approximately one mile of lots to the south of 10 Mile Road in order to swing by the zoo without touching it. A three-level interchange is located at Woodward Ave. and from Woodward to Interstate 75 (Chrysler Freeway), the freeway uses 10 Mile Road in Royal Oak. There will be a four-level interchange at I-75.

FROM I-75 to Dequindre, the freeway will be located one block north of 10 Mile Road in Madison Heights to avoid existing industry. At Dequindre, the freeway will curve northeasterly, entering Warren, and continuing to 10 1/2 Mile Road and then along 10 1/2 Mile Road to Mound Road.
At Mound Road the freeway curves northeasterly to the previously announced section of the freeway along 11 Mile Road in Macomb County.
An estimated 1,264 buildings—homes and commercial buildings—will be purchased before construction starts.
In his letter to each community, Mackie said the highway department's present 1-696 timetable calls for:

• PURCHASE of right-of-way to start in 1969.
• CONSTRUCTION to start in 1967.
The entire project is scheduled to be completed by 1971 or 1972 with portions of the freeway to be open to traffic starting in 1969, Mackie said.

Christmas
(Continued from 1-A)
The Birmingham YMCA is lending a helping hand to harried mothers by providing a series of holiday excursions during the vacation period. Trips include visits to the Children's Museum in Detroit, Greenfield Village in Dearborn, Christmas Fantasy Land at Cobo Hall, skating and sledding in Kensington Park and a train ride to Durand.
BIRMINGHAM FAMILIES can get together for an old-fashioned Christmas Carol Sing on Christmas Eve at 5:30 p.m. in Shain Park. Carolers will be accompanied by a brass horn sextet from Southeast High School. The event now in its 28th year, is sponsored by the Birmingham Musicale.
Churches in the area have scheduled a wide variety of special services and musical programs commemorating the holy season. For complete information, see Page 6, Section B.

Simply spin your dial to Midwest 4-1100 and a professionally-trained advertiser will help you prepare your message.
• RESOLUTIONS of approval from the affected communities by next June 30.
• Design work to be completed by the end of 1965.

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