

NEWS FROM HOME



Tired Firemen Poke Through the Ruins of Boston's Coconut Grove

Nation's Worst Fire Disaster in 40 Years Kills Almost 500 People In Boston Night Club

Boston—A silly prank caused the nation's worst fire catastrophe in nearly 40 years when the gay Coconut Grove night club burned down Saturday night, killing at least 484 persons and critically injuring nearly 200 more in flame, smoke and stampeding panic.

A thousand week-end merrymakers were jammed into the one and one-half story drinking spot Saturday night; things were livelier than usual because Holy Cross, in a startling football upset, had defeated powerful Boston College that day by 55-12.

A playful patron loosened a light

bulb in the Melody Lounge in the basement of the club, under the main dance floor. A 16-year-old bus boy, Stanley F. Tomaszewski, stood on a chair to try to fit the bulb back in place, lighting a match to see what he was doing.

The match set fire to a paper palm tree, and the fire snaked along the draperies and other furnishings with incredible speed. Instantly the light-hearted scene changed to one of blind panic, with men and women screaming and clawing each other, packed together in a desperate, fighting mass as they rushed out and hurled themselves against the glass

revolving door leading into Piedmont Street.

The door wouldn't move because the crowd was trying to push it in opposite directions. An unidentified naval lieutenant gave his life trying to reason with the mob. He was found dead with his back against the revolving door, his arms outstretched, as though imploring the crowd to hold back. His uniform had been torn from his body. In front of him bodies of crushed and suffocated celebrators were packed to the roof.

Some people ran out of other small exits with their clothes and

even their hair on fire. Others, including eight nearly nude chorus girls, escaped by jumping from the roof. Billy Payne, singer at the club, saved ten patrons by leading them into a large icebox in the basement, where they waited in safety until the fire had been put out an hour later.

Among the dead was Buck Jones, the cowboy film star visiting Boston as a War Bond salesman.

It was the greatest disaster of its kind since the Iroquois Theater fire in Chicago in 1903, which claimed 602 lives.

Damage was estimated at \$250,000. Only two weeks previous the Coconut Grove, together with all other Boston nightclubs, had been inspected by fire officials, following an East Boston fire in which six firemen were killed. Nevertheless, one of the doors which had been equipped with a panic lock that would open under pressure, was found to be secured by another lock.

Farm Income Hits Peak, Henderson Tells Congress

WASHINGTON—“The level of net farm income is the highest in history,” Leon Henderson, Federal Price administrator, reported to Congress this week. “It exceeds by a full billion the income earned by farmers in the fabulous year of 1919, and every dollar of this income buys vastly more than it did in that year.”

The lowest percentage increase in net income between 1939 and 1942 was given by Mr. Henderson as 90.1 per cent for Mississippi Delta two-mule farms, and the highest as 204.5 per cent for winter wheat farms.

Lucky Locomotive

Inglewood, Cal.—When a freight train hit an Army jeep at a crossing near here, the four soldiers who had jumped off just before the collision got up, dusted themselves off, went 50 yards down the right of way after the jeep, righted it, drove off again.

The freight train locomotive was only slightly damaged.

People Back Home

ARKANSAS

El Dorado and Hot Springs went tie for conference lead as Ft. Smith topples North Little Rock in Arkansas' football race. Ordnance plants continue production-as-usual Thanksgiving. Arkansas Business Bulletin predicts peak yearly income for Arkansas this year. After five days of solicitation, the Community Chest-Arkansas Crippled Children's drive is only \$47,000 short of its \$213,959 goal. Chester Holland, Ft. Smith mayor, selected as new president of the Arkansas Municipal League. Arkansas' CAP has highest membership on percentage population basis on any state in nation. Little Rock firms institute ride sharing groups as gasoline rationing looms.

CALIFORNIA

No Christmas trees along Broadway and Los Angeles this year but a heavy insistence on backing our boys with war bonds. The meanest thief again. This time he swiped the bronze statuette from Pomona College, at Claremont, memorial fountain. The Handy twins, Bob and Roy, of Van Nuys, have enlisted in Navy aviation's ground forces. Hungry coyotes in El Centro are causing annual poultry loss \$3,000. . . . Kimball Cannery, at Redlands, reports largest tomato pack in its history. There will be no Rose Tournament parade at Pasadena January 1, but instead a Bond Parade to buy bullets to annihilate the Axis. Hollywood film players, who have backed many a loser, whoop with delight at announcement of proposed Horse Meat Markets in Los Angeles. They suggest butchering the nags which invariably come in last—with a lantern on their tails.

GEORGIA

In Barnesville, the Aldora Mill announced it will send a \$100 Xmas present to every ex-employee now in the armed forces. Georgia's cotton crop is 39 percent better than last year's; pecan production is largest in state history. Brunswick has been given a \$538,000 housing project. Cane grinding started in South Georgia. Bill Chappell, 24, son of county commissioner for Carroll County, who drew a life sentence for murder 2½ years ago, is pardoned by Gov. Talmadge. Story is that while in prison Chappell had special privileges, even dating gals at night.

IDAHO

Idaho citizens approved by 1500 votes a monthly pension of \$40 to all poor people 65 or older. C. A. Bettelsohn of Arco, former governor, was elected governor again to succeed Chase A. Clark, incumbent Democrat, by a margin of less than 600 votes out of 150,000 cast. Big game hunting season in Idaho made news when Mrs. Dale Relfe of Boise, a small blonde, stabbed a large buck to death after it had charged her; and when a stockman named Bachman, of Oreana, spotted a buck in his pasture, ran it into a corner, grabbed it by the antlers, bulldogged it, and cut its throat with a pocketknife. John D. Glasby, civilian athletic director at Gowen Field has been named coach at Boise Junior college, succeeding George “Stub” Allison.

IOWA

Participation of 19,652 of its 22,000 workers in payroll deduction war bond plan won Cedar Rapids the nation's first treasury department “T” flag. . . . Ottumwa High school girls got faculty approval to wear slacks for the duration. Dr. C. W. Rominger succeeded the late Dr. John Huecker as municipal health officer at Waukon. Raymond Melby, 31, Moorhead, husked 220 bushels of corn on Friday the 13th. “Pudge” Camarata, who averaged 146 yards per game for Iowa Teachers, is Marine-

minded. Some navy officers complained of high rents at Ottumwa. The state restaurant association decided a cup of coffee, without food, should cost 10 cents. In Northwest Iowa, the group riding plan, originally started to provide transportation for workers to their jobs in the cities, has taken hold among farmers in this vicinity on trips to town. They like it, too, because it's neighborly. At Sioux City the mortgage on the Immanuel Lutheran church was burned at a special service when the congregation became free of debt. At Hornick fire, believed caused by spontaneous combustion, destroyed the Farmers Elevator, a nearby feed shed and an empty boxcar, causing \$25,000 damage.

INDIANA

Big forest fire in southern Indiana came within two miles of Camp Atterbury; 200 fire fighters and a big rain-storm put it out. Other fires—the three-story Odon Milling Company building at Odon and the Modern Woodmen Lodge at Blue Ridge near Shelbyville. Adj. Gen. Elmer (Pete) Straub called to active Army duty as colonel of artillery; acting adjutant general is Capt. William P. Weiman. Mrs. Caroline Payne, Bloomington newspaper executive, went on trial for second time accused of killing Charles O. Mattingly in July, 1941. At Union City, the Pennsylvania railroad has replaced four crossing watchmen with women. A big buck deer paid a call at the farm of Herbert C. Jones west of Fairland, and came within 50 feet of the house. Judge John L. Niblack, Marion county municipal court, reappointed for a four-year term.

KENTUCKY

Kentuckians signed up this week for gas ration books. Coffee is to be rationed, too. Representatives from Bowman Field and Fort Knox conferred with Louisville's health director about a possible milk shortage. Jailer Marty Connors called in cops to quell what he described as a “threatened riot” by a

dozen young prisoners in Louisville's jail. The appeals court affirmed the Drys' victory in Harlan County. A \$78,900 USO center was approved for Hopkinsville. All war plants and most others in this area worked Thanksgiving day. A gas rationing and consequent curtailment of school bus use is limiting basketball games.

MARYLAND

Taxi companies at Baltimore were refused a new rate increase sought



Mary Hoffman, 19, was chosen as “Miss Victory” by war workers in Chicago.

from the PSC. R. Walter Graham, five times elected city comptroller, died at the age of 79. Mrs. Ella Bailey was elected to the Baltimore city council, taking the place of the late Frank Busch. When a truck load of groceries was stolen, then recovered, one item was missing. Rationing of the items begins November 29; yep, four cartons of coffee. Several dozen former wearers of pink coats are now wearing blue or khaki, so the ladies and elder gentry carried on the fox hunting traditions in "the valley." . . . Grants of \$745,500 will permit University Hospital to furnish its twelfth floor, and build a new hospital in Baltimore county.

MONTANA

Martinsdale: Tire punctures should be scarce in this region. School children have gathered up 94 pounds of nails in the "Slap a Jap scrap drive." Polaris: A white-faced bull which strayed from the home ranch found companionship but little to eat when it threw in with a herd of six moose in the hills near here. Gardiner: The oldest tire in Yellowstone park—used on the first automobile to enter America's playground—found its way to the scrap heap. The auto 'shoe' measured 27 inches on the inside diameter and 36½ inches outside with a 16½ inch girth. Butte: Sheriff Al McLeod has been elected president of the Montana Sheriffs and Police Officers association, succeeding Barney Larsen of Anaconda. Drafting of 18 and 19-year-olds is expected to postpone the calling of Butte married men with children at least until after February. Tom Kelly, Butte brewer, is winning acclaim as being both patriotic and frugal in recrimping discarded bottle caps and using them again to offset the shortage of new crowns. Even Game Warden Lester Barton had tears in his eyes when he related the story of a 700-pound cow moose that drowned in a lake near Deer Lodge after falling from a concrete embankment near a dam. The cow's gangling calf saw the tragedy and waited for seven hungry days, judging from trampled snow at the scene.

NEW ENGLAND

At Taunton, Mass., a three-day weekly course in training of recreational workers was started under the direction of the APA. At Haverhill, one of the closest and bitterest municipal campaigns in years is underway. Mayor Albert W. Glynn, seeking reelection, is opposed by Donald J. Atwood, former chairman of the Board of License Commissioners. Only two votes separated the two contestants in the primary balloting, with the mayor trailing. At Hyannis, Pvt. Charles H. Cross, in the Army, will receive one of the largest, longest letters on record. It was written by 106 of his relatives, neighbors and friends on Cape Cod, is 50 feet long. Springfield reports that homes for 750 families are planned as the next step in a program to provide adequate housing for thousands of workers in industrial and government plants. One group of 300 homes for war workers was opened recently. In Sanford, Maine, the Navy had to take what the Army couldn't use. Two tons of Army khaki was re-dyed Navy blue for overcoating in a local mill. In New Haven, Conn., David E. (Little Davy) Fitzgerald Sr., four times mayor, died at 68 after a long illness. Enoch Borgnaes, last of the great Waterbury scandal trial defendants, was sentenced to a year in jail on promise to spill any beans still unspilled (Dan Leary, indicted but not tried, still missing). So many civilian tires were turned in to the government from Connecticut that thousands are piled on express platforms or freight cars awaiting storage space. Rev. Charles C. Carver, matinee idol at the old Hyperion, later curate at Christ Church, New Haven, died. William Wirt Winchester Hospital in Allingtown, used by Army in last war, may be turned over to Air Forces soon.

NEW MEXICO

Albuquerque High, Carlsbad and Raton are the three teams in the running for the state grid title. Asst. Fire Chief Milton Grande of Albuquerque suffered a fractured thigh in a \$12,000 fire at a brewery at 2nd and Marquette Streets. 149 Albuquerque businesses report their employes 100% on the 10% pay deduction for war bonds. Of nine marriage licenses issued in Albuquerque the last week in November, eight bridegrooms were in uniform. The postman will ring only once a day in Albuquerque from now on for duration of the war.

NEW YORK

George F. Rand, 50, president of the Marine Trust Company and one of Buffalo's outstanding citizens, died. Mayor-

elect Stephen A. Lamb of Niagara Falls is having difficulty with the government, which claims he is a citizen of Canada and ineligible to run for public office in the U. S. A shortage of cooks may force the closing of the J. N. Adam Memorial Hospital at Perrysburg. The Food Supplies Committee of the Buffalo War Council will ask the Council to inaugurate meatless Tuesdays. The Rev. John P. Boland of Buffalo resigned as chairman of the State Labor Relations Board. Clarence A. Greve, former secretary and assistant treasurer of the Citizens Bank and Trust Company of Geneseo, pleaded guilty to misappropriating bank funds. Two Dayton, Ohio, men proved in Buffalo that you can beat the slot machines—if you don't get caught. They used a handdrill to bore a hole in the wood on the sides of the machines. Then they inserted a wire and tipped a tumbler, hitting the jackpot.

NORTH CAROLINA

In annual session in High Point the Baptist State Convention adopted resolutions calling on the North Carolina Legislature to outlaw alcoholic beverages for the duration, and to submit for approval of the electorate next year a plan for "permanent prohibition" in this State. Dr. I. G. Greer of Thomasville was elected president of the Convention. North Carolina's October quota of purchase of war bonds totaling \$9,750,000 was exceeded by 21 per cent, with \$11,740,000 being reached. Through purchase of a total of \$1,017,364, on a quota of \$945,300, Mecklenburg county led for the month. In High Point, 11 of the 12 floors in the HPFE building are being leased to the Demobilization Records division, effective December 1, 1942. From 500 to 700 Federal workers are to be in the building to demobilize members of the armed forces after the war, officials say. Six months after the end of the war the space is to revert to use of furniture manufacturers. Mayor Pro-tem Edgar L. Yow of Wilmington succeeds Mayor Hargrove Bellamy, who resigned to report for duty as an Army Major. The Yorkville Enquirer, weekly newspaper at York, S. C., published continuously since 1855 until its suspension several weeks ago, is to be sold at public auction by W. M. Dunlap, receiver.

OHIO

The Cincinnati Post solved its problem of finding a permanent editor of its military news department after the draft got the incumbent of that post. The newspaper appointed a girl (Beverly Ewald) to the job. Once during each World War, the two Cincinnati universities—the University of Cincinnati and Xavier—played each other at football. In the game played in 1918, UC won. The second was played Nov. 21, 1942. UC won again 9-0. City Manager C. O. Sherrill of Cincinnati says Bingo receipts in the past three years total \$7,000,000. Councilman Russell Wilson has introduced a resolution against Bingo. But he doesn't believe that even three of the nine councilmen will approve the ban. "That hen must have led a double life," Mrs. Charles Doll said in reporting that one egg was found inside another egg at her home.

PENNSYLVANIA

Dorothy James, daughter of Pennsylvania's governor, was married in the Governor's Mansion to Deputy Attorney General Frank A. Sinon. For the duration at least, women will work in Philadelphia's police stations as clerks. Three strip-teasers arrested last spring at the Troc burlesque house were freed by a jury when they testified that their apparent nudity was just an optical illusion. Women replaced men in some Philadelphia garages as parking attendants. At Nesquehoning, the whole town turned out to celebrate when it was learned that Lt. John De Angelis was rescued with Capt. Eddie Rickenbacker. Final count of the vote cast by Philadelphia soldiers gave Ross, D., 412, and Martin, 400. The WAACS moved into the Walton Hotel, taking over three floors as dorms.

SOUTH CAROLINA

Weldon F. Twitty, president of the Darlington Manufacturing company, died after a long illness. Bowman: The South Carolina conference of the Methodist Episcopal church, South, in annual conference at Bowman, hailed America's war against the Axis as a fight in the interest of Christianity against the forces of evil. Clemson's victory over Furman made the Tigers tops again in state football. Controversy of the Week in Charleston: who should keep the streets cleaner and how. Mayor Lockwood says the city is doing all it can, that residents and hundreds of new Charlestonians must cooperate.

VIRGINIA

All rents in Richmond set back to the March 1 levels effective Dec. 1. Draft boards mailed 50,000 questionnaires to Virginia's 18-19 year old boys. Meat shortages threatened in Richmond as their OPA allotment to end of the year was used up; plenty of meat on the hoof but it can't be slaughtered. Richmond council considers a proposal to spend \$2,000 repairing the carillon tower in Byrd Park; there's been no chime for months. The OCD found 112,000 Virginians in local defense work, double the quota. Governor Darden warned motorists to obey 35-mph speed law or he'd put electric eye machines on the highways to trap speeders. In Richmond, 18,000 turned out to see John Marshall High lick the Teejays from Thomas Jefferson, 25-7. Feature was Ray Marshall's 102-yard run for touchdown after intercepting a Teejay pass behind his own goal.

WASHINGTON

Berlin was wiped off the map this week, as far as King County records are concerned anyway. Born in the days of a big mining boom in the Skykomish Valley, the little community of Berlin had long been a ghost town with streets covered over with willows, alder and second-growth fir. Seattleites took new courage this week when they learned a dozen youngsters out near Lincoln Park have taken a tip from Orphan Annie and organized themselves as Junior Commandos. At last report they were scouring the neighborhood for a graveyard-shift worker's house to be quiet in front of. . . Secretaries at the Seattle Port of Embarkation were all agog over the arrival of Lieut. (j.g.) Richard Ney, engaged to Greer Garson of Mrs. Miniver fame.

TEXAS

An automobile dealer in Houston has but six autos for sale—but there are twelve buggies complete with everything except "ole Dobbin" on its display floors. Those old die-hards who said the auto never would replace the horse have finally been vindicated. According to the firm's manager, six buggies have already been sold, and they are buying all they can get. One horse-power between the shafts is worth more than one hundred in an auto motor these days. Houston motorists, now waiting to register for gas rationing, have turned in nearly 13,000 tires under the ruling prohibiting more than five casings to a car. An abortive attempt to bring back prohibition to Fort Worth while many voters were away at the wars was slapped down by the good citizens of the city at the recent election. The vote may have a far-reaching effect on future prohibition plans. For the first time in the history of Houston, a woman has been appointed airport operations manager. She is Mrs. Nelda Murphy, who'll combine her secretarial duties with those of her new job. Another "first" finds Miss Nell Tucker in charge of the county's delinquent children bureau. She replaces David Kruger who has gone into Government service. And still the women take over. County Commissioner Bob Turrentine has just been commissioned a lieutenant in the Navy, so his charming better-half will replace her husband in the county administration.



Shot 'n' Shell, weekly paper of Camp San Luis Obispo, Calif., commenting on Mrs. Roosevelt's suggestion that American soldiers in England be sent "thicker socks and more letters from home," pleads: "Make our letters thicker, not our socks. We can always wear two pairs when the weather is cold, even three, but we can't stretch a one-page letter into four." . . . Soldiers at Fort Sill, Okla., make their own recordings of radio programs, using disc with a glass base instead of plastics.



Pvt. Artie (Scats) Engler of Pine Camp, N. Y., appeared on a coast-to-coast radio program and soon afterward received this telegram: "Job open in Norfolk night club, salary \$55 a week. Wire immediately if available." He replied: "Available right after war. Uncle Sam holds option on me right now." . . . From Lowry Field, Colo., Pvt. Milton Yelsky writes that Pvt. Dick Jensen met his brother, Norman, whose whereabouts he had not known, in the company chow line.

Back home any passing dog-sled driver would have been glad to give him a lift, so Pvt. Ulak Hope, an Eskimo, didn't hesitate to thumb a ride in Seattle on his first visit outside Alaska. Ulak climbed out of the car at his hotel, thanked the driver, started to walk away. "Hey," yelled the driver. "Where's my money?"

At Fort Belvoir, Va., Lt. Gen. Lesley J. McNair, commanding general of the Army Ground Forces, told graduates of the Engineer Officers Candidate School: "Thunderous forms of handling men are obsolete. When one hears bellowing in the field it probably marks not a real leader but one who has lost his temper when things go not too well. The art is in leading men, not driving them."

A dozen Camp Shelby (Miss.) soldiers who are natives of South Dakota, the "Pheasant Paradise of America," got a pleasant surprise when the father of Sgt. John D. Stransky shipped a batch of the birds more than 1,500 miles for a feast. . . . Two days after playing a concert there, Pvt. Ossy Renardy, violinist, arrived at Fort Dix, N. J., as a selectee. . . .

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VICTOR. Sergeant V. W. Zekas, Wilkes-Barre, Pa., downed Zero in New Guinea.



INVADERS. In training for smash landing operations, these Navy Seabees jump off the side of a landing boat, somewhere in Eastern U.S. They're ready to build or battle.



PRODUCED BY THE C



FASHION. Actress Grace McDonald introduces the new Chute Suit.



SCOREBOARD. Crew of light cruiser Boise point with pride. Silhouettes represent six Jap warships she sent to the bottom.



OPENING. Shortly after dedication of Alcan Highway, first army truck convoy carries war supplies to Fairbanks, Alaska.



COURTESY. At Camp Lee, Va., WA officers Margret Fullert and Ruby Herman return G.I. highba



LANDING. Jap torpedo was headed for an American ship. Good maneuvering let Guadalcanal beach take it.



PAINTER. T-5 Dick Howard, of Philadelphia, brushes on a little more cold to a shivering Yank, part of mural he's painting in Ireland. Mrs. F.D.R. gave it a big O.K. when she saw it.



A CLEANUI