Explosion Kills 9 in 2 Families

Reading, Pa. (UP)—An explosion and fire two nights ago leveled two adjoining homes early today that nine members of two families living in them didn’t even have a chance to escape, a fire official said.

Three bodies were recovered from the rubble and six other persons were missing and feared dead.
The blast and the fire which raced through the two homes left the two-story brick structure a pile of rubble.

Three bodies were found in the ruins of the home of Robert Geiser at 51 N. Carroll St., and firemen were searching the debris “brick by brick” in a search for other victims.

Geiser’s wife, a son, Robert, and a daughter, Loretta, were missing.

Missing in the adjoining home of Frank N. Staniszew at 49 N. Carroll St. were Staniszew’s wife, a son, Robert, and a daughter, Loretta.

Staniszew, apparently the only member of the two families to escape the blast which occurred about midnight, was treated at Community General Hospital for shock. He had returned home from work shortly after 11 p.m. and had gone to a nearby garage with his automobile.

He was walking home when the blast occurred.

The cause of the explosion, which rocked the neighborhood, was not determined immediately.

It was believed that an accumulation of gas may have been touched off. Neighbors had complained of the presence of the gas for some time.

Fire Chief Russell C. Bowers said a preliminary investigation showed that water department crews had been digging in front of the two homes to locate a water main.

Minneapolis Theater Attendance Rises

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—The Minneapolis Theater Company increased attendance by 13 per cent during its 1967-68 season.

The total of 223,471 spectators represented 79.4 per cent of potential capacity, compared with 68.8 per cent in 1966. In addition, 39,000 students attended 25 school performances.

AMONG BEST-DRESSED—These five women are among those named to the “best-dressed” list for 1967 by the Washingtonian, a women’s magazine. Top left is Mrs. Angus Ogilvy, Princess Alexandra of Kent; top right, Mrs. Angy Riddle Duke, wife of the American ambassador to Spain; bottom right, Princess Stanislas Radziwill.

Resnick Hits Navy Shift Of Captain

WASHINGTON (UP)—Rep.

Joseph Y. Resnick, D.N.Y., has asked Defense Secretary Robert McNamara for an explanation of the dismissal of the captain of the battleship USS New Jersey to a desk job.

The Ellenville, N.Y., congressman, an announced candidate for the U.S. Senate in November, charged the skipper had been relegated to “an insignificant desk post” because he had “come to the aid of a controversial fellow soldier.”

“I am deeply shocked and outraged at the Navy’s sudden, arbitrary, and unexplained firing of Capt. Richard Alexander, commandant of the New Jersey and his banishment to an insignificant desk post in Boston,” Resnick said in a telegram to McNamara.

Resnick also described as “a stain on the honor of the Navy” the handling of the so-called Arntz affair.

Lt. Cmdr. Marcus Arntz, relieved of command of a destroyer operating off the coast of Vietnam following complaints from crew members, was repeatedly helped during the investigation to obtain the name of the so-called Arntz affair, and was held in the Navy’s highest estimation.

Lynda Bird Makes Best Dressed List

NEW YORK (AP)—Lynda Bird Robb is named on the “best-dressed” list for 1967 by Mrs. John Parker, editor of Harper’s Bazaar, as are Princesses Alexandra of Kent and Patricia of Kent; Princess Margaret; and Lady Bird Johnson.

continues

California Heart Patient ‘a Little Bit Better’

PALO ALTO, Calif. (UPI)—A heart transplant patient, Mike Kasperak, was discharged from Stanford University Medical Center today after two days of hospitalization.

Kasperak, 54, was discharged on Tuesday night “primarily to improve circulation.” He remained inside a mechanical assistance apparatus. Intravenous fluids were being given to replace a damaged human heart.

Kasperak was near death with a swollen, diseased heart when his heart function was “a little bit better” than a prognosis issued 11 hours earlier.

Kasperak’s condition was described as “a little bit better than we thought it was going to be,” said Dr. Norman E. Shumway, who performed the operation.

Kasperak’s heart is kept beating in his chest for the fourth day. His wife visited him again Tuesday night after he was able to move around the room.

His condition remained critical. A bulletin issued at 9 a.m. Tuesday reported it was “not severe.”

Tuesday and Wednesday nights he was treated at the Palo Alto medical center.

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