

SECTION B

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SECTION B

Lilly Paint Plant Destroyed In \$200,000 Fire

Stubborn Blaze Keeps Firemen Fighting More Than 12 Hours

Firm Intends To Rebuild If Materials And Equipment Can Be Obtained

Black, smoldering ruins are all that is left today of a four-story building belonging to the Lilly Paint Company and C. E. Diffendal, vice president of the company, lies dead of a heart attack. Well-informed sources disclosed that losses of equipment and the four-story sheet iron building ran to more than \$200,000 and little was salvageable from the blackened, twisted ruins.

TO REBUILD
Company officials said today that they would rebuild the plant if they could receive necessary priorities and permission.

Clouds of thick smoke blanketed the city late last night as city firemen under the direction of Chief E. K. Ingram skillfully battled the city's second major fire in two months.

Fire Chief E. K. Ingram revealed the conflagration started from a spark from an induction motor.

Officials of the company were told by state electrical inspector N. E. Cannady to replace these motors as they did not conform with requirements for class I hazardous locations. However, officials of the company reportedly told Cannady as well as Chief Ingram that the motors could not be replaced.

Reason for the Lilly Company's inability to comply with requests of Ingram and Cannady was because wartime restrictions made motors unobtainable, according to W. R. Campbell, treasurer and general manager of the company.

RIVERS OF FLAMES
The building sprinkler system only spread the fire. Water mixed with inflammable paint materials ran from the sprinklers down the sides of the buildings carrying with it rivers of flame.

By the time firemen arrived on the scene, the entire four-story structure was a blazing torrent from basement to roof.

A worker in the plant told Chief Ingram that he attempted to stop the blaze when a bucket filled with highly volatile naphtha puffed into smoke and flame, evidently from a spark from the motor. However before it could be extinguished, flames had become hot enough to set off the building's sprinkler system.

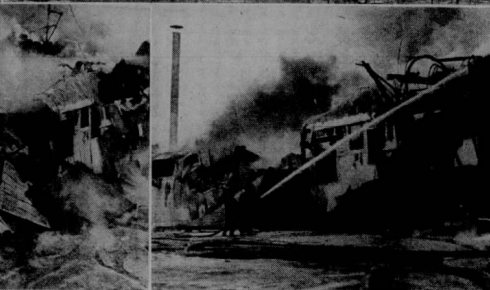
Ingram disclosed that the sprinkler system was in fine working order but that no system could cope with such inflammable material as paint.

Though firemen battled for more than 12 hours it was impossible to save the four-story building and its highly inflammable contents. Covering 15,000 square feet of ground and containing 60,000 square feet of floor space, for the most part wide open, giving all-out aid to the spreading flames.

NO INJURIES
No injuries were reported among the firemen despite the ferocious fight in near zero weather.

Ingram revealed that because he was convinced of the fact that

PAINT PLANT FIRE SCENES—Roaring flames sweeping through a four-story sheet-iron building belonging to the Lilly Paint Company, here resulted in damages of more than \$200,000. Flames rose 100 feet in the air and the dense black smoke could be seen for more than a mile. Top picture shows the blaze soon after it started, lower left are the crumpled walls and blazing ruins about two hours after the fire started, lower right, firemen send water into the blazing ruins in an effort to keep it from spreading. —(Staff Photo.)



Funeral Rites For Diffendal Will Be Held Here On Friday; Drops Dead Suddenly At Plant

Funeral services for Charles E. Diffendal, 56, vice president of the Lilly Company, who died of heart attack Wednesday afternoon at 2 o'clock after the plant caught fire, will be conducted Friday afternoon at 2:30 at the St. Mary's Episcopal Church.

In charge of the service will be Rev. Howard S. Hartzell, rector; Dr. W. Allen, rector of the Grace Episcopal Church in Lexington. Rev. H. Norwood Boone, former rector of St. Mary's and Rev. David Yates, rector of St. Phillips Episcopal Church of Durham.

Active pallbearers will be J. V. Thompson, Dr. R. Stewart, H. S. Haworth, D. C. MacRae, Bunn W. Hackney, Jr., Edgar Hartley, O. Haischild, Dr. Marvin Lackey, honorary pallbearers will be the St. Mary's vestry, employees of the Lilly Company and the Uwharrie Council of Boy Scouts.

Mr. Diffendal was born in Danville, Va., December 6, 1886, the son of William and Mary Darrick Diffendal. He was educated at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and the University of West Virginia. He was a star athlete of the former institution. He was married September 27, 1914 to Miss Lida Dorman of Lynchburg, Va. He came to High Point in 1921 as manager of the Marietta Paint Company's plant, and remained with the company until October, 1933, when he was chosen president of the newly organized Lilly Company, a concern closely affiliated with the Lilly Varnish Company of Indianapolis, Ind. Later he became vice president with management of the plant.

In the year that the Lilly Company was organized, Mr. Diffendal was chairman of the local chapter, American Red Cross; he remained in this capacity for approximately five years, and it was through his untiring efforts that the chapter was able to put on a definite program and to secure a full-time executive secretary.

He was a member of St. Mary's Episcopal Church, executive member of the Laymen's League, Diocese of North Carolina; member of the Kiwanis Club, of the executive committee, Uwharrie Council, Boy Scouts of America; and one of the organizers of the day nursery schools here. For his work in behalf of the Boy Scouts he was presented the Silver Beaver Award.

Survivors are the widow; two sons, Charles E. Diffendal, Jr., Baltimore, Md. and Eugene John W. Diffendal, May Port, Fla.; two sisters Mrs. I. N. Dodson, Richmond, Va., and Mrs. W. W. Lynn Lynchburg, Va.

Bonds Not Sold Heavily Here To Meet Taxes On Incomes

Bonds are not yet being cashed in to pay income tax to any large extent, according to Postmaster S. C. Clark.

Clark disclosed today that more than 40 per cent of the war stamps purchased locally are being cashed in.

Oddly enough, war bonds, popularly considered as being convertible into income tax payments have been refunded to approximately only two per cent of their total sale.

"Children are the ones who are cashing in stamps," the postmaster revealed. "Most of them when asked what they are going to do with the money say they are going to the movies."

Clark said that High Point actually leads among southern cities in the low percentage of bonds cashed in.

"The cashing in of bonds, if it does not rise above its present level, is nothing to worry about," he said. "However with such a large proportion of stamps being cashed, it is doubtful whether selling them at all is profitable."

He said that a large proportion of bonds cashed in were for emergency purposes including paying hospital and doctor bills and a few for selectees who needed extra money to make a last minute trip.

Sale of war stamps through the post office during February amounted to \$15,888.25, while the sale of bonds, during the same month totaled \$34,725.

Our Men In Service

PFC. WIER AT DEL RIO
Pfc. Norman Wier, has been assigned to duty as an airplane mechanic at the AAF flying school at Del Rio, Texas. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Wier, Route One.

HERE ON LEAVE
Carnie Fred Wolfe, Seaman second class, U. S. Navy, has spent a nine-day furlough with his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. James R. Lawson Mt. Airy, En route to his station at Bainbridge, Maryland, he spent some time with relatives, Mrs. Mazie Dawkins and Mrs. Bill Lawson, both of this city.

ROACH ON FURLOUGH
Rodney J. Roach, stationed at Camp Blanding, Florida, spent his furlough at the home of his mother, Mrs. Acra Roach, 937 Council Street.

LEAVES AFTER VISIT
Pvt. Albert W. Morris left on Tuesday for Greenville, Miss., where he is stationed with the U. S. Army, after spending a fifteen-day furlough here with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Morris, 703 Granby Street.

Teague Trophy To Be Awarded Raleigh, Friday

Presentation of the Teague Trophy, annually awarded to the outstanding boy and girl athlete in the two Carolinas by the A.A.U., will be made Friday at 1 o'clock in Raleigh at the Chamber of Commerce dinner, A.A.U. Secretary L. J. Fisher announced today.

Peggy Pate, Goldsboro swimmer, and Robert M. (Bob) Gant, Jr., Duke University athlete will receive the awards.

The dinner is an annual affair held preceding the Southern Conference basketball championship tournament. It will be held at the Carolina Hotel and tournament officials, sports writers and guests will be in attendance.

Rites Are Friday For Mrs. Hutchins



Funeral services for Mrs. Jack Hutchins, the former Miss Sara Frye Stone, who died yesterday at the home of her mother, Mrs. J. Lee Stone, after an illness of several months, will be conducted Friday morning at 10 o'clock at Sechrist's Funeral Home by Rev. C. Exelle Rozelle, pastor of Wesley Memorial Church. Interment will take place in Chestnut Hill Cemetery.

Passenger Car Tires Get New Classification

Under a recent OPA ruling all passenger car tires have been reclassified, the local rationing board announced this morning.

The number "three" tire which has been known as the "war tire"

Mayor Denies Dismissals Contemplated

Despite any persistent rumors to the contrary, Mayor O. Arthur Kirkman denied today that any action had been taken or would be taken in the dismissal of any city employees.

"There has been no motion made before any city council gathering, formal or informal, to discharge any employee including Grover Jones and Walter Crissman," the mayor stated.

"Neither," he continued, "is there any proposal before the council for any such action."

The mayor was upheld by Councilman Amos R. Kearns who said the statement "was a true fact."

Mayor Kirkman did indicate that there had been discussion and expression of opinion on the matter of dismissing certain employees but stated that at no time had a motion been raised to take action in the case of any employee.

Reports that certain city employees were to be relieved of their jobs have persisted since the Shreve Bill fight came to the fore. It is alleged that certain employees entered into the fight, opposing the city council, for the passage of

Infant Of H. N. Clapps Dies In Local Hospital

The infant son of Mr. and Mrs. H. N. Clapp, 207 Pine Street, died in a local hospital Wednesday night at 10:30 o'clock. Surviving are the parents, H. N. and Mary McGhee Clapp; the paternal grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Clapp, and the maternal grandmother, Mrs. Margaret McGhee, all of this city. Funeral services were conducted in the Sechrist Funeral Home this morning at 11 o'clock by Father McMillan, rector of St. Edwards Catholic Church. Burial followed in Oakwood Cemetery.



Lilly fire 1943-03-04 HPE

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