

Fire Victims' Neighbor Holds Sad Memories

By JOE GIULIOTTI and DAN McLAUGHLIN

Thirty-six hours after the tragic fire which snuffed out the lives of a Wilmington mother and five of her eight children, a heartbroken friend and neighbor looked out her window and said, "Those children were always coming in here, running in and out. I want to remember those things."

It was hard for Mrs. Harold Maser to talk about the fire which killed Mrs. Nancy Landers, 36. It was even harder to talk about the dead children — David, Jr., 13; William, 12; Kevin, 10; Lisa, 7, and Kathleen, 4.

The Landers had been their next-door neighbors for eight years. "We were so close my friends are now saying I'll have to move. But I can't," Mrs. Maser said.

"When they first moved in, my husband and I were in the process of building a 250-foot-long fence between the two homes. We went over to welcome them and after meeting them went right out and pulled up the stakes," she continued.

Looking out the window, she viewed the line of flowers which divides the homes. "See the path worn through them. They were always coming and going."

"They were a top-notch couple. He put a swimming pool behind his house but before

they did, they talked with all the neighbors, asking their opinion. They told us they wouldn't let any children in without an adult being there," she added.

David Landers, Sr., 37, is in Choate Memorial Hospital recovering from severe burns suffered when he attempted to get back in the house and was literally dragged away by firemen.

His three surviving children, Harry, 17; Michael, 15, and Susan, 14, still trying to get over the shock, sadly went about planning funeral arrangements, with their uncle, James Landers of Hollbrook.

Their mother, three brothers and two sisters, will be buried Tuesday in Wildwood Cemetery, Winchester, following a requiem Mass in St. Mary's Church, Wilmington, at 10 a. m. A one-day wake will be held Monday in Cavanaugh's Funeral Home from 3 to 5 and 7 to 10 p. m.

Mrs. Maser said her daughter, Betty, 12, a playmate of the dead children, keeps saying, "Oh, Mommy, if only—if . . ." "I keep telling her to think of all the wonderful memories."

"I have my own memories like the time they told us to take their camper on our vacation and we said we didn't have any trailer hook on our car. They simply looked at my husband and I, smiled, and said 'Then take our car,'" Mrs. Maser sadly concluded.



SUSAN LANDERS, 14, WEEPS WALKING FROM HOME

Friends, Relatives Board up Fire Tragedy Scene

Sunday Advertiser Photo, Stan Forman

Colleges Put Hike Blame on States

WASHINGTON (UPI)—Students at the nation's public colleges are facing major increases in tuition and fees as they return to school this fall, partly because state legislatures failed to provide adequate money for education.

Two educational associations said Saturday that major state universities and land grant colleges had raised fees an average 16.5 percent above those of the 1968-69 school year, and regional state universities had raised their fees 14 percent.

The two groups are the National Ass'n of State Universities and Land Grant Colleges, which represents 113 major state institutions, and the American Ass'n of State Colleges and Universities, which represents 261 regional institutions.

The association said, in a circular sent to the colleges, that it was apparent that many institutions tried to avoid fee increases, but at the last minute were forced to raise them when state legislatures failed to appropriate extra money for education.

The increases in room rates came mainly because of the construction of new dormitories and because of increased operational costs brought about by new conveniences such as air conditioning.

Teachers' Checks on Way

There will be no teachers strike in Boston on Tuesday. Checks were being prepared Saturday for the city's 4000 teachers who had been urged to boycott classes if the monthly checks were not at the schools Monday.

When the checks were not ready on Friday, as the schedule called for, John P. Reilly, president of the Boston Teachers Union, warned of the possibility of work being halted. He charged "gross inefficiency somewhere."

However, the data processing department at City Hall worked overtime on Saturday, and department director John F. Flanagan said the checks will be at the schools on Monday.

Flanagan admitted that missing a scheduled payday never happened before, but that the lateness of signing the contract possibly contributed to the delay.

Reilly was joined in his wrath by Louis Vangel, executive secretary of the union, who called the missed payday a "delaying tactic" on the part of the city.

Vangel said the contract was signed on August 28, noting that he sent letters to City Auditor John Fitzpatrick and Leo Burke, business manager

of the School Committee, urging them to have the checks ready on time two weeks ago.

"I've been handing out \$10 bills in the union office to teachers who haven't been paid in over a month," Vangel said. "I foresaw the possibility of botching the checks, and that's why I sent those letters."

"There's no one responsible for getting out the checks. The School Department blames City Hall and City Hall blames the School Department. They have to have one person who is answerable for getting the checks out on time."

Reilly said that the teachers were being treated as second class citizens and that he planned to have the teachers assemble at the School Committee on Monday "if pay is not forthcoming at that time."

The union president said the teachers would then be asked to refuse to return to work until they received their wages.



PRETTY Kerrie Gorman, 18, reigns over the weekend air show at South Weymouth Naval Air Station where her father is a lieutenant-commander. A University of Rhode Island student, she wants to get her pilot's license. The Air Show runs through Sunday and the public is invited. Sunday Advertiser Photo, Bill DeLorgy

A Disoriented Oriental!

by BILL DUNCLIFFE

If there's a Chinese way of screaming " *%¼ 1†★&C. 1", the crew of one of the city rubbish trucks probably heard it —and quite a bit more besides—at Oxford and Beach sts., Saturday.

They heard it from a highly excited Oriental, right after they let him out of their storage bin and just before he combed the ash and trash out of his hair.

What he was sore about, you see, was not only had they scooped some of his prized stuff into their truck but they scooped him, too, — and he wasn't too thrilled about getting knocked around with the cans, cartons, and assorted rubbish.

The whole thing happened when the man, in the process of moving from one apartment to another, stacked his belongings on the sidewalk and went back upstairs for more.

The only mistake he made was that he

stacked them right next to some rubbish, and when he looked out the window he saw the crew heaving them into the scoop of the truck, along with the contents of the trash cans.

He ran downstairs and made a jump for the scoop as it was being raised to the top of the truck—but alas, he jumped too well, and an instant later he and his goods were dumped into the storage bin.

The crew, startled but still in possession of their senses, stopped the engine, and combed through the bottles, bags, and rags until they found their indignant passenger.

When they got him out, and separated his stuff from the trash, he proceeded to tell them off with jumps, gestures, and waving of arms.

Then he took off, and they never did find out what it was he called them.

Which was probably just as well—because it surely couldn't be printed here.