

Warped

by Scott McCullar



Wisconsin blaze kills six in nursing home

United Press International
EAU CLAIRE, Wis.—A midnight fire at a downtown nursing home killed six elderly residents. Five others were led to safety by two young women staff members. Lives may have been lost because the alarm was sounded late, officials said Tuesday.

Flames were shooting out the windows at the Silver Leaves Home when firefighters arrived shortly before midnight Monday. Fire Chief Kenneth Mikesell said. The death toll was the highest for a fire in the city's history.

Fire officials said the deaths might have been prevented if the alarm had been called in

quicker or if the home had been equipped with an automatic alarm system.

Staff members Sabrina Thorson, 19, and Cindy Wold, 21, went back into the burning building to get people out, Mikesell said. Thorson was hospitalized for smoke inhalation.

The victims, all victims of smoke inhalation, were identified as Ludwig Falkner, 80; Don White, Lester Stelter, Rose Mitchell, Margaret Schmidlin and Frank Devney.

One of the staff members came downstairs about midnight and saw flames in a wastebasket. She ran back upstairs to call the owner of the building before sounding the alarm, the chief said.

The home did have smoke alarms which alerted the staff

members, officials said.

"When we got there, the fire residents and the two young women were outside," Mikesell said. "I guess they woke up people to get them out."

One body was found near the front door of the two-story frame building, which housed 11 elderly residents. Upon two bodies were found in each of two beds and one in a hallway, the chief said.

"The fire was confined mostly to the living room area, and smoke and water damage to the remainder of the home," Mikesell said. He estimated damage at \$25,000 to \$30,000 but no cause was determined.

The rescued residents were treated at a hospital and leased to nearby homes.

Gov't workers to be included

Social Security plan given

United Press International
WASHINGTON — Federal workers and postal service employees adamantly oppose a plan to include new government employees in the Social Security system, arguing it will bankrupt their own civil service retirement funds.

Kenneth Blaylock, president of the American Federation of Government Employees, told the House Social Security subcommittee Monday that federal workers are "justifiably paranoid" Congress will not protect their pension plan.

Representatives of several other federal employee and postal worker unions were testifying Tuesday before the subcommittee, in its second week of hearings on the financial problems of the Social Security system.

Most of the union leaders believe the National Commission on Social Security Reform, which submitted its short-range package last month, was far too optimistic in its estimate of how much money could be saved by including new federal workers in the system.

The commission estimated the Social Security retirement fund would pick up an addition-

al \$20 billion through 1989 by requiring the new federal workers and employees of nonprofit businesses to contribute to the system.

But the National Association of Retired Federal Employees said, in a testimony prepared for Tuesday's hearing, although the commission estimates \$13 billion of that will come from federal workers, newer numbers will be in the \$8 billion to \$10 billion range.

The American Federation of Government Employees says the figure for federal and postal service employees alone is closer to \$3 billion, largely due to the Reagan administration's reduction in the federal work force.

Blaylock said federal employees believe they "have been used as scapegoats by the Congress and the administration. He said the employees have seen benefit after benefit cut.

Now Congress is saying we want to use your retirement system to bail out Social Security," Blaylock said.

The core of the commission's proposal, endorsed by President Reagan, House Speaker Thomas O'Neill and most congressional leaders, would provide \$168 billion in payroll tax in-

creases, a six-month freeze on benefits and new taxes on high-income pensioners, in addition to including newly hired federal employees in the Social Security system.

A majority of the Republican-controlled National Commission on Social Security Reform recommended in a supplemental report the retirement age be increased gradually to 66, after the turn of the century, to help solve the system's long-range financial problems.

O'Neill, Monday, rejected raising the 65-year retirement age to finance the ailing Social Security system.

The stand by the powerful Massachusetts Democrat makes it unlikely that the option could be approved in the House, but the proposal has strong support in the Senate.

Meanwhile, a panel of senior citizen representatives, told the Social Security subcommittee they vehemently opposed any reduction in benefits, including raising the retirement age and freezing the annual cost-of-living adjustment for six months.

But subcommittee Chairman J.J. Pickle argued: "We simply have to consider the years

beyond. We must consider the young people coming up."

If you are a man or woman who has or is about to receive a degree in **ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING** why not put that degree to work in the Air National Guard? Upon completion of the Academy of Military Science, you'll be commissioned as an Air National Guard Officer. Consider the Air National Guard as you think about your future. We're a modern service with an interest in the future. Contact your Air Guard Recruiter by calling collect (713) 727-2336. **THE AIR GUARD — THE MOST IMPORTANT PART TIME JOB IN AMERICA.**

TAMU THEATRE ARTS presents

GARCIA LORCA'S **BLOOD WEDDING**

Rudder Theatre

Feb. 9-12 8 p.m.

A&M students \$2.00 Non-students \$3.00

Dallas WEDNESDAY NIGHT

PEAK OF THE WEEK PARTY!

\$1 Bar Drinks
50¢ Longnecks
\$1.50 Frozen Drinks
All Night Long!

Dallas Night Club in the Duex Chene Complex
Behind K-Mart, College Station

693-2818

30% OFF ALL KEEPSAKE DIAMOND BRIDAL SETS IN STOCK

KEEPSAKE. A BEAUTIFUL WAY TO SHOW YOUR LOVE.

When he gives you a Keepsake diamond engagement ring, you'll be floating on clouds. And no wonder. A Keepsake is special. Very. For over 90 years Keepsake has been marrying quality diamonds to exquisite design. And because Keepsake guarantees the quality of your diamond and setting for life, you'll always have confidence in your choice. Your Keepsake diamond engagement ring. It's for keeps. Just like your love.

Keepsake®
Feb. 1 thru Feb. 14

DOUGLAS JEWELRY
1623 Texas Ave. Culpepper Plaza
212 N. Main Downtown Bryan

HIBISCUS, DAMSEL, KIMBERLY

Rings enlarged to show detail. Trade-Mark Reg.

PAVILION SNACK BAR

Located on Spence Street next to the CREAMERY

Hamburgers, Sandwiches, Drinks, and Snacks
Breakfast Donuts, Eggs, Sausage and Hot Coffee

Open Mon.-Fri.
7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

"QUALITY FIRST"

APPLICATION FORMS FOR **THE BUCK WEIRUS SPIRIT AWARD**

will be available **February 1 - February 25** at the following locations

Former Students Student Activities Office
Student Finance Center V.P. for Student Services
Student Programs Office Health Center
North Area Office Commons Area Office
Central Area Office Corps Guard Room

Any student may apply by completing an application form and turning it in at the Former Students Office no later than 5:00 p.m. on Feb. 25th.

ASSOCIATION OF FORMER STUDENTS TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY