



Farmington Hills fire officials inspect the damage of a blaze which killed a man and seriously injured his wife. (Photo by Cyd Abatt)

Wife in critical condition Blaze kills Hunters Ridge resident

Local authorities said a fire which ravaged a Farmington Hills apartment May 3 causing the death of one occupant and seriously injuring another was accidental.

Raymond Kottke, 55, of 31870 Kingswood Lane died from smoke inhalation at 11:50 p.m., an hour after firemen pulled him and his wife from their burning apartment.

Ruth Kottke, 52, is listed in critical condition at Botsford Hospital.

Oakland County Sheriffs and Farmington Hills Fire Marshall William Gearhardt said a cigarette apparently ignited a cotton-filled living room sofa. Mr. and Mrs. Kottke both smoked, according to police.

Neighbors notified fire and police department at 10:49 p.m., after smelling smoke in their own apartment, upstairs from the Kottke residence.

Pearl and Raymond Jacobstein told police they smelled smoke in their bedroom. Jacobstein followed the odor to the downstairs apartment and saw flames inside, through the living room

window. He knocked on the window in a vain attempt to rouse the occupants.

WHEN THE fire alarm sounded, Farmington Hills volunteers Lawrence Scheffler and Irwin Berman, near the scene, responded. They tried to enter the burning apartment to no avail.

Instead they evacuated the remaining seven units in the building and waited until Stations One and Two and Engine Company Four arrived. Berman was treated for smoke inhalation and released from Botsford Hospital.

Firefighters Paul Cuscac and Paul Slater discovered the Kottkes in the bedroom. Kottke was lying on the floor in the direction of his wife's bed when firemen stumbled over his feet. Mrs. Kottke was discovered in her bed.

Smoke hampered fire fighters' efforts to find the victims, according to Farmington Hills Fire Chief John Van De Voort.

"The men could barely see their hands in front of them," he said.

The apartment was gutted but fire fighters managed to prevent the blaze from spreading to other units in the building. No other tenants were injured in the blaze.

Patton addresses prevention confab

Jimmy Patton, client services director for the Farmington Area Advisory Council, was a guest speaker at the first Inter-Agency Prevention Conference, held recently at Boyne Mountain.

Patton was chosen to participate because of his involvement in the development and direction of the prevention and education program offered by FAAC. This program was originally funded in October 1976, through a grant from the Michigan Abuse Attorney General Public Health Trust as a pilot and demonstration effort. Continuation funds are being provided by the State

Office of Substance Abuse Services. The model has been cited by the state for its approach to prevention of substance abuse.

The prevention conference was sponsored by Mental Health Association in Michigan, Michigan Department of Education, Substance Abuse Prevention Education Program, Michigan Department of Mental Health, Michigan Department of Public Health, Office of Substance Abuse Services; Substance Abuse Prevention Education Association and State Prevention Advisory Committee.

Obituaries

JAMES JOSEPH McMANUS

James McManus, 58, of Farmington Hills, died April 15 in Botsford General Hospital. Services were April 18 in the Heene-Sundquist Funeral Home with the Rev. Joseph A. Drogowski of St. Clare of Assisi Church officiating. Burial was in Holy Sepulchre Cemetery.

Mr. McManus was an office manager for the Phoenix Mutual Life Insurance Co. Surviving are his wife, Elaine, and daughter, Kathleen.

NELLIE C. ESCH

Nellie Esch, 74, of 1970 Meadowbrook, Northville Township, died April 27 in University Convalescent Home. Services were April 29 in the Ross B. Northrup & Son Funeral Home. Officiating were Jerry R. Fimagan and C. Croone. Burial was in Clarenceville Cemetery.

Mrs. Esch was born in Farmington Township in 1904. She was a homemaker and member of Jehovah's Witnesses of Plymouth. Surviving are her mother, Mary Evert; daughter, Mrs. Betty Sutton of Northville Township; brother, Lester Evert of Williamston; four grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

WILFRED CHARLES REYNOLDS

Wilfred Reynolds, 59, of Farmington, died April 15 in Botsford General Hospital. Services were April 18 in the Heene-Sundquist Funeral Home with Msgr. Thomas Beahan officiating. Burial was in Grand Lawn Cemetery.

Mr. Reynolds was a World War II Army veteran who served in Europe, Africa, and the Middle East and received a Good Conduct medal. Surviving are his wife, Dorothy; brother, Ray; and sisters, May Reynolds, Mrs. Eva Walsh, Mrs. Rita Gribbons and Bernice Reynolds.

ADDIE MURPHY

Addie Murphy, 88, of Farmington Hills, died May 2 in University Convalescent Home. Services were May 5 in the Thayer-Rock Funeral Home with the Rev. John N. Howell of the First United Methodist Church of Farmington officiating. Burial was in Oakland Hills Cemetery.

Mrs. Murphy was a housekeeper and resident in the area for several years. Surviving are daughters, Mrs. Kathryn Becker, Mrs. Lois Pickard and Mrs. Dwayne Campbell; three grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

MELVIN E. BUTLER

Melvin Butler, 72, of Livonia, died April 18 in St. Mary Hospital. Services were in Ward United Presbyterian Church with the Rev. L. Edward Davis officiating. Arrangements were made by the Heene-Sundquist Funeral Home, and burial was in Glen Eden Cemetery.

Mr. Butler was an accountant at Ford Motor Co. until his retirement. He was employed with the Heene-Sundquist Funeral Home for 10 years before his death. He was an active member and head usher at the Ward Presbyterian Church of Livonia.

Surviving are his wife, Alta; daughter, Mrs. Joan Lee Pelham; brother, Kenneth; sisters, Mrs. Ruth Hamby and Mrs. Winifred Courtney; and two grandchildren, David and Jennifer Pelham.

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Begin May 10 7:30 P.M. High School Mixed League—persons per team

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10:00 A.M. Ladies Morning Coffee League
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