Survivors: They tell the story of MGM fire

Lucile Bruner of Bloomfield Hills booked a room in the MGM Hotel after winning a trip to Las Vegas in a Police Athletic League (PAL) raffle. She checked in Thursday. Today, the 'A-year old woman is among several Birmingham-Bloom-field residents who survived the fire which engulfed the luxurious high-rise Friday.

which engulied the inurnious high-rise Friday.

Mrs. Bruner, her son and daughter-in-law, William and Sherry Bruner (Mrs. Bruner, her son and daughter-in-law, William and Sherry Bruner West Bloomfield, and her sister-in-law escaped from the 10th floor of the MGM atter watching panic grip trapped botel guests.

Don Narry of Bloomfield Township and Bob Reason of Bloomfield Hills, lodging on the hoel's 22nd floor while on a pleasure trip with friends, are also among the survivors of the blaze which injured more than 500 and killed 84 persons, including a Bloomfield Township man.

"I HAD gotten up early and had breakfast," said Nanry. "I was gam-bling at the blackjack table in the morning about 7:15. I would gues there were about 150 people in the casi-

"I looked down toward the delicates-sen/restaurant area and noticed all this smoke. I said to the dealer it looks to me like a hell of a fire back there. I

to me like a hell of a fire back there. I said let's get out of here.

"I ran out of the hotel and within a minute of getting out of the easino the whole easino was up in flames, and the huge eanopy in front was engulfed in flames." Nanry said.

ames," Nanry said. Others in the hotel were denied such a quick escape.

William Bruner said he and his wife
were asleep when the sound of fire

sirens penetrated their 10th floor room.

Neither worried about the sound.
Fire sirens are common on city streets.
"But then we heard what sounded
like kids running up and down the
falls," said 39-year old Bruner. One of
them hit our door and said fire. We
were asleep but somehow my mind
worked fast enough to relate fire encines and someone saving fire.

worked fast enough to relate fire engines and someone saying fire.

"I pulled the window shade back and the smole was to heavy I couldn't see across the street. My wife opened the door leading to the hall and smoke started coming into the room. People were running up and down the hall.

"The first thing we thought of was to get my mother and my aunt who luckly were on the same floor. If they hadn't been we never would have gotten to them.

"WE HAD to go through the section where the elevators were to get to my mother's room, and that is where the smoke was the heaviest," Bruner re-

"You couldn't see a thing — the smoke was so heavy. We bumped into walls and everything else. We got to their room and started frantically pounding on their door," said Lucile Bruner. "Mother, mother; he said, there's a fire hat had been to have a support to the said the said to the said th

FACING SUFFOCATION in the

hall, the group pushed into Mrs. Bruner's room and worked to break a window for air.

"We were coughing and choking."

Bruner said. "Women were crying and screaming. "We've got to get out of here. People were just panicking. People were through gahars from the win-dows above us and glass was flying. It was the most frightening thing you've ever seen in your life."

"People kept screaming to those on the ground, 'Help us, help us, 'help us.' "We all had dampened towels. We were breathing through those," said his mother.

mother.

One of those in the group was an MGM employee who led the way to a suite with a balcony. There, the Bruners and the others took turns en-

Bruners and the others took turns en-tering the balcony for air.

"We were in the suite five or 10 min-utes when one of the firemen came up with a gas mask, and we all started down the fire escape," Bruner said.

"We understood they used blowers to

hall, the group pushed into Mrs.
Bruner's room and worked to break a shundow for air.
"We were coughing and choking," getair."

try to get smoke out of the fire escape the form there was a skrue be with Joseps (section).

get air."

"FOR ME. to walk down 10 floors was something because I have trouble with my legs." Mrs. Bruner said. "I made it downstairs and how I did I dou't know. I never thought I would ever be able to walk down 10 flights of stairs but with things like that you do."
"Down at the bottom it was like a battle scene," said her son. "I was in Vietnam for a year and bad never seen anything like this, It was a horrible scene. We got my mother and aunt away from there."

Robert Krue, mayor of Bloomfield Hills, was staying at the Riviera Hotel across from the MGM. His friends, Nanry and Reason, were booked into the MGM's 23nd floor.

"When we got word of he fire we found that Don Nanry was safe but that Bob Reason was still in the hotel,"

Krue said.

Krue began to search for Reason with Joseph Risdon, a Bloomfield Hills resident also lodged at the Riviera.

"Joe Risdon and I went down to the MGM and spent Friday morning and afternoon looking for Reason," Krue said. "I had never seen anything like myself, couldn't help but be emotionally involved. Everyone was crying. You couldn't help yourself."

"A lot of people were in shock and looking for their relatives," said Risdon.

REASON MADE it to safety with

REASON MADE: it to salety with the help of fireflighters. "Firemen knocked on my door at 9:30, and I was sound asleep," said the Bloomfield Hills resident. "When I answered the door he said,

'Get dressed and walk down the stair-way.' I did as the man said and I was lucky.
''I wrapped a wet towel around my head."

Barbara Reason at home in Bloom-field was aware of the fire before her husband.

While he slept, she heard a radio re-port that the "MGM was burning out of control."

Mrs. Reason spent the hours sitting in the kitchen, keeping the phone lines clear hoping to hear from her husband.

THE FIRE, which is believed to have started in the kitchen of a ground floor delicatessen, claimed the lives of at least 83 people. Killed in the blaze was Richard E. Sipfle, 46, of Bloomfield Township.



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CITY OF FARMINGTON

A Regular Meeting of the Farmington City Council was held Monday, November 17, 1980, in the Council Chambers, 33800 Liberty Street, Farmington, Michigan. Mayer Hartsock opened the meeting at 800 p.m. PRESEAT: Hayer Hartsock, Councilmen Bennett, Buckler, Tupper and Yoder.

ARSENT:None
CITY OFFICIALS PRESENT:City Mgr. Deadman, Attorney Kelly, Director Selfert
and City Clerk Vlane.

CITY OFFICIALS PRESENTICITY Mgr. Deadman, Altorney Kelly, Director Seitert and City Clerk Vise and City Clerk Vise. The mintees of the previous meeting were approved. The mintees of the previous meeting were approved. A Public Hearing was held to review the proposed Special Assessment Roll for the 1974-90 Sidewalk Repair Program. Comments were heard from residents and the Assessment Roll was continued as amended. Repeat from the and Mrs. William Jurek, 2839 Maple, for a fence variance was

tabled.

(It) Manager Deadman was instructed to prepare a study and proposed amendment to the fence ordinance for Council consideration.

(It) Manager Deadman reported on the wholesale water rate increase received from Oakhan County.

Oakhand County.

And the county of the county o nurvey of the area.

If authorized the splitting of Lot 3, Perkin's & Cowan's Subdivision, requested.

Gerald Spitler, 34132 Oakland.

by Mr. Gerald Spilter, 34:132 Oakland.
Council considered the request for rezoning recommended by the Planning Commission and introduced the request for rezoning recommended the Zoning Map for Parcel 23-34-202-095 from M-1 Industrial to R-3 Multi-Family District Community Development Program Poblic Hearings were re-scheduled for December 1, 1890 and December 15, 1890.

1, by Manuer Deciman was authorized to sign contract with URLIARO COUNTY on an opportunity of the CUTTA program.
Council subtorized amendment to the Dental Plan, Personnel Rules, Section 13.5 to include a new level of benefits.
The bild of Graphic Communications, Inc., Plymouth, Michigan, was accepted for the printing of the Annual Report Calendar Plans (Proposition Was adopted establishing a Deferred Compensation Plan for the 47th

Resolution was adopted establishing a Deferred Compensation Flain for the Fifth District Court employees. City Clerk Viane reported on the November 3 General Election. The Financial Report-General Fund four months ended October 31, 1980 was ived and filed.
Financial Report-47th District Court four months ended October 31, 1980 was elved and filed.

nthly bills were approved for payment. meeting was adjourned at 9:55 p.m.

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721-3220

CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS PUBLIC NOTICE

The City of Farmington Hills Winter 1980 Tax Statements are payable from December 1, 1980, through February 17, 1981, without penalty. 4% penalty added February

18. 1891.

City Hall Offices will be open for payment of taxes 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Mooday through Friday, with the following exceptions:

Wednesday, December 24, Closed Wednesday, December 31, Closed Thursday, December 25, Closed Thursday, January 1, Closed

Wednesday, December 31, Closed Thursday, January 1, Closed

Wednesday, December 24, Closed

Wednesday, December 24, Closed

Thursday, December 25, Closed

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Charles D. Rosch Finance Director/Treasurer

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