

(Continued from Page 7A) "It sounded like a bell not at all like a fire alarm.

"It sounded like a bell not at all like a fire alarm. It went off after about 25 seconds. A half minute later it went on for about 10 seconds and then com-pletely shut off." In the conclusion, Seavitt later found that at least one of the hotel guesst, the father of a blind child, had checked with a desk clerk and was told there was a false alarm. The man returned to his suite. "It was like waiter on in a site/tores." 'It was like waking up in a nightmare," said Mrs.

was a false alarm. The man returned to his suite.
"It was like waking up in a nightmare," said Mrs.
Scavitt.
"Others in our group later said they didn't hear the alarm but were awakened by the smoke pour-ing into their rooms," Scavitt said.
He later learned that only one of the twp en-closed fire erity was used for except. He found that one, nearest to his room, was so completely filled this more that those who used it were re-rooted to the hold root, where they walked for rescue unit thin we erity must be they walked for rescue unit thin we erity must be they walked for tescue unit that the encourt of detecting the smoke. Scavitt was adviced by held personnel to leave his room ond take the fire escape. The couple decided other-wise as they found the smoke to black.
"We also learned that these six who pertished had died on the fire escape."
AFTER THE SECOND bell sounded and after white smoke hespan filtering in the their both ther could be their bed. They quickly began soaking towells and jammed them beneath the door to keep the smoke storm screee.
The temperature was about 8 degrees and the

out seavitt the ran to a window and ripped out the storm screed. The temperature was about 8 degrees and the wind chill factor dropped that to about 20 degrees below zero. The couple remained in their room bun-dled in heavy ski clothing. The Seavitts considered climbing to the roof, but

seven-foot overhang blocked that attempt. As the smoke grew thicker, Seavitt reached for a

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chair and used it to knock out a second window in their room. Smoke from a 21st floor room began blowing in. "In the room next to us the couple was scream-ing. They said they had kids with them and they didn't want to die."

didn't want to die." After an hour, they received a call from the lob-by and a report that "everything was under con-trol."

Oddly, the Seavitts have had a similar, although less alarming, experience. They were in Hawaii in 1974 when a fire broke out in their hotel on the island of Kauai. They immediately were evacuated from their room, on the 22nd floor.

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at a racketball-tennis club across the surces trout the hotel. With little time to recoup, they spent a burried three hours trying to reach and learn of the whereabouts of the other tour members. None were seriously hurt, experiencing mostly smoke inhala-tion. By 5 pm. the Seavitts and more than half of their group boarded a bus for home, after their driver was released from the hospital. He had suffered smoke inhalation. About 10 members stayed be-buid, in unaffected hotel rooms, the other hospital for even while taking the elevator up to his hotel room after registering Friday. He made a note of reading room instructions on what to do during a fire, hours before the ine began.

"I'm sure we'll never stay above the third floor again." Seavitt said.



Thursday, January 22, 1981