WHEN YOU FINISH READING YOUR AFRO PASS IT ALONG TO A FRIEND

Good news for asthmatics

Specialist's discovery now makes it possible for breathless asthmatics to sleep soundly and do it without use of internal drugs or painful injections. Get rid of that tight chest, stop coughing and wheezing with this prescription. Ask your druggist for Mistoxin prescription.

Calling All HOMEMAKERS

Everybody's buying the New Package Policy—Covers Fire, Burglary, Liability, and many other losses. Inside, outside, and all around the house, whether you own or rent, you can save money.

EARL KOGER AND SONS INSURANCE
2126 W. NORTH AVE.
LA. 3-1815

AUTO INSURANCE
All kinds for cars and trucks
SR 22 Fast MV Films JR 11
Easy Monthly Payments
Arlington Insurance Agency
5138 Park Heights Ave.
LI. 5-8420

THEY ALWAYS COME BACK TO PHIL DIXON AT CITY CHEVROLET

BECAUSE PHIL GIVES THE BEST DEALS, HIGHEST TRADES, & LOWEST PAYMENTS . . .

ON NEW 1960
IMPALA
BEL AIR
BISCAYNE
CORVET
CORVAIR
SAAB

ONLY $99.00 DOWN
ONLY $8.00 per wk.
AND YOU DRIVE A NEW 1960 AWAY AT . . .

City CHEVROLET

MARYLAND & MOUNT ROYAL
REMEMBER: YOU'LL HAVE MORE LEFT IN YOUR KITTY WHEN YOU DEAL AT CITY . . . MARYLAND & MT. ROYAL.

You Can't Scratch Away IRRITATING ITCH

Scratching is dangerous! It may lead to infection!

Scratching of itching eczema, pimples or rashes can disfigure skin and cause infection. If you want fast, dependable relief from ugly, itching misery use "Skin Success" Ointment. Only "Skin Success" Ointment gives your skin the benefit of this great prescription formula, tested by a noted doctor.

Don't let that itching distress trouble you another day. See for yourself how fast this clinically-tested ointment makes your troubled skin feel good again. Millions have found blessed relief with Palmer's "Skin Success" Ointment. Prove it yourself. Feel completely satisfied or your money back. Only 35¢. The economical 75¢ size contains four times as much.

PALMER'S SKIN-SUCCESS OINTMENT

NATIONAL EDITORIAL ASSOCIATION 1959 — AFFILIATE MEMBER — MEMBER MARYLAND PRESS ASSOCIATION

THE BALTIMORE AFRO-AMERICAN
Registered U.S. Patent Office. Circulation Audited by Audit Bureau of Circulation (ABC).
Published every Tuesday and Saturday by THE AFRO-AMERICAN Company, 628 N. Eutaw Street, Baltimore 1, Md. (Mulberry 5-0611).
Second class postage paid at Baltimore, Md.
Carl Murphy, President; D. Arnett Murphy, Vice President and Treasurer; Elizabeth M. Phillips, Asst. Sec. Secretaries; Cliff Mackay, Editor; James D. Williams, Assistant Managing Editor; Shaw J. Dawson, City Editor.
REPRESENTATIVE OFFICES
FAIR, WALL AND THE SQUARE DEAL.
National Representative:
Associated Publishers, Inc., 33 Walnut Street, New York, N.Y.; 166 W. Washington Street, Chicago, Ill.; West Coast — Whaley-Simpson Company, 5055 Selma Avenue, Los Angeles 23, California; Whaley-Simpson Company, 1095 Market St., Monadnock Building, San Francisco, California.
Affiliated Newspapers:
Washington: AFRO-AMERICAN, 1901 Ninth St., N.W.—Phone: 5-0080
Philadelphia: AFRO-AMERICAN, 427 S. Broad St.—Phone: 5-1937
Richmond: AFRO-AMERICAN, 1108 N. 2nd St.—Phone: 7-1011
New York: AFRO-AMERICAN, 199 Clinton Ave., Newark, N.J.—Bl. 3-0658
Subscription Rates
Three Years, $12.00; Two Years, $9.00; One Year, $5.00; Six Months, $3.00.
FOREIGN RATES
One year, $6.00; Six Months, $3.50

—At least 5 saved

(Continued from page 1)

through the window and yelled that there were women in the house and jumped.

"Two other fellows and I tried to break the door down when we couldn't budge it with our shoulders. I grabbed a fornstone and broke it open.

"We brought out two ladies and a man. One of the women was on fire. The other one's skin had peeled off.

"After we got out, I saw the fire spreading down the block. I never saw anything like it in my life."

ALSO AIDING IN the heroic rescues was William T. White, 43. Mr. White's house was next door to where the explosion occurred.

Here's how he related it:

"I smelled gas all over the house. I thought it was coming from the cellar. I went downstairs to see where it was coming from.

"I was down there for about a minute. There was a noise that sounded like crashing thunder. I was knocked down and stunned for a while.

"When I recovered, I rushed up stairs. Everybody was out. So I went next door and helped some other men get two women and a man out.

"THE WOMEN'S clothing was ragged and burning. Their legs, and faces, and arms were bleeding. They were groaning and moaning.

"It is a sight I couldn't forget if I lived to be a hundred."

ANOTHER GALLANT angel of mercy was Leroy Jackson, 28. Here is his story.

"After the explosion, the fire broke out. I ran from the house.

"While standing across the street, I saw a women screaming and struggling against police trying to get into the house.

"Her two-year-old baby was inside. While officers were keeping her from entering the flaming building, I dashed past them and entered.

I found the baby in bed and crying. I grabbed it and ran. I am still nervous."

There were many others who played a vital role in keeping injuries down and avoiding certain death.

But persons and details understandably were swallowed up in the mass confusion and deepening darkness.

But, they were heroes. Unflaunted by fear; encouraged by concern for others, they wrapped themselves in glory.

—Baby cries

(Continued from page 1)

screaming and snatching up their children, others stood aghast — too frightened or stunned to move.

Seconds after the blast, fire came, with long, hungry tongues licking across to the opposite side of the street.

"It all happened so fast. Recalled Mrs. Tyson. After this loud noise, I looked across the street and saw a boy running out of one of the houses — his face was bloody —and I saw all this fire.

"IT HAD GOTTEN so hot out on the porch, we had to move," she added, "but by that time, I had seen the boy and was running in the house, grabbing my children, and trying to phone an ambulance and the Fire Department," the matron said.

Mrs. Richardson said the first thing she saw after hearing the explosion, was a porch of one of the houses "come crashing down."

"I saw all these big flames lapping over in front of my door and it nearly scared me to death," she told the AFRO.

"I ran into my cellar and started bringing up buckets of water to throw on my steps because they were so hot. The water just steamed up from them — you could see it, the steps were so hot," she said.

ONE OF THE first ones on the scene after the explosion, Mrs. Smith, mother of a two-week-old baby, said she ran from her house and was on her way toward the baby she heard crying when a man pushed in front of her.

She said he managed to get the baby out before the fire began.

Many of the neighbors on the other side of the street said their upstairs windows were broken.

Hours after the deafening explosion, hundreds of people milled around the scene seeking an explanation, and watching to see the injured or to inquire about who may be missing.

LATER, THE RED Cross established a survival shelter in a neighborhood church.

While firemen poked in the pile of debris left where the houses had been, scores of police officers struggled with the crowds who gazed complete amazement.

Where the houses had been at 2807, 2809 and 2811 E. Chase St., was an empty lot piled with the still smoking debris.

MISS CYNTHIA BUTLER
She will pay it

—Cook willed

(Continued from page 1)

her his home, "Ye Little Woode in Coconut Grove which she sold; $408,665 in corporation stocks; two lots valued at nine thousand dollars; U.S. bonds worth $254.00, and cash totaling $6,615.00.

But Mrs. Peacock said, "We worked and paid for our house and furniture ourselves."

A $32,000 trust fund for Bonita, who does not know of the inheritance, was set apart in the estate and remains intact in spite of the outcome of the will battle.

BONITA, WHO called Zaring "Uncle Charlie," took his death very hard, the mother said.

The Peacocks live in a colored neighborhood in Coconut Grove at 3435 Charles Ave. The modest but nicely-kept yellow bungalow has wall-to-wall carpeting, Persian scatter rugs and tasteful furniture. A framed quotation of George Washington Carver is visible, it reads: "Start where you are with what you have; make something of it, never be satisfied."

Coconut Grove merchants who knew Zaring and the Peacock family said they were very close. One merchant said: "they seem to do nice things for Mr. Zaring."

—Civil rights bill

(Continued from page 1)

with the Whitner Amendment.

The amendment, sponsored by Rep. Basil Whitner, N.C. — Democrat, would have stricken from the bill the clause making obstruction of Federal Court orders in school desegregation cases by "threatening letters," as well as by force, a Federal offense.

IN THE SENATE, the Clark-Javits amendment to the Administration's civil rights bill was tabled by a vote of 51-43.

The motion to table was offered by Sen. Wayne Morse, (D.-Ore.) Wednesday to allow Sens. John F. Kennedy of Massachusetts, and Hubert Humphrey of Minn. to vote and returned to Wisconsin to continue their campaign in that state's preferential primary.

Three of the candidates for the Democratic Presidential nomination - Kennedy, Humphrey, and Stuart Symington of Missouri voted against the tabling motion.

The fourth candidate, Sen. Lyndon B. Johnson (D.-Tex.) voted to able.

THE CLARK - JAVITS amendment provided two remedies to qualified persons who were refused registration to vote because of color.

It provided for court appointment of voting referees to register such persons and also for appointment by the President of federal enrollment officers.

There was talk in the Senate cloakroom Thursday that the house-approved bill will be sent to the Senate Judiciary Committee with instructions to report it back to the Senate within a specified time.

THE HOUSE Wednesday took a roll-call vote on the Administration's court-appointed voting refree proposal.

The vote for its final approval was 292 to 124.

Final action on the entire voting rights bill was blocked by Representative John Bell Williams, of Mississippi, who demanded an "engrossed" copy for a final vote. The vote, therefore, was delayed until Thursday.

PREVIOUSLY, all action had been taken in the Committee of the Whole House, into which the House had resolved itself to consider what started out as a civil rights bill. Action in the committee of the whole is tentative.

When all debate on the bill ended at 4 p.m., Thursday, the committee arose and reported the bill to the House. Rep. Francis E. Walter, of Pennsylvania, who had served as chairman of the committee of the whole, was given a standing ovation as he left the chair and Speaker Sam Rayburn of Texas took over the presiding.

Rep. William M. McCulloch, of Ohio, who was co-manager of the bill with Rep. Emanuel Celler of New York, demanded the roll-call vote on the voting referee amendment.

All other amendments were given final approval by voice vote.

ONE CHANGE made in the bill Wednesday was an amend-

—Flim-flam victim

(Continued from page 1)

bus station. He asked me my name and telephone number and said he would call me sometime.

"About three months later he was back in Columbia and he gave me a call. We had lunch and he asked me did I want to make some easy money.

"I asked him how I could make this money and he explained it to me. I told him I had to think about it.

"On the 25th of August he called me and asked if I could meet him in Murphyboro, N.C. He met me at the station and took me to a hotel and got me a room.

"That night he went over the drag with me and we left the following morning on the way to Baltimore.

"We stayed at a motel between Baltmore and Washington and then we came to Baltimore.

". . . . . parked the car and we came through the market and got some coffee. There Mr . . . . told me he would do the catching and I would find the pocketbook.

"I STOOD OVER BY the bus stop and he went into a bank. Later I saw him and this lady come out of the bank. They talked for about 10 minutes and then Mr. . . . gave me the sign to come over and find the pocketbook.

"I did and the lady called me and said, 'Little girl, we saw you when you picked up the pocketbook'. I said, "You all are not going to tell on me are you".

"They both said no, to keep it, 'it was your good luck.' I told them there was $250 in it and since they were so nice I would give them $65 each.

"Mr. . . . **asked me if there was anyway I could get the bills changed. I told them that up where I was working I had saved $185 and that I could carry them to the office and give them $65 each out of that.**

"We started walking and we got almost to the Gas building when Mr. . . . stopped us and asked the lady if she didn't think it would be better if they waited while I went up and got the money. She said 'yes.'

"I WENT OVER in the building and stayed about five minutes. When I came back I told them that it was $3,150 in the wallet instead of $250 and that they were going to get $1,000 instead of $65.

"I told them the man I worked for was going to change the money but they had to prove they were reliable people and that they knew the value of a dollar.

"Mr. . . . said he had on him $1,500 and a check. I asked the lady how did she stand and she said she had $14,000.

"I said you mean $1,400 and she said, 'No' and showed her bank-book. She then asked Mr . . . what she should do and he told her at first to get $10,000. She said she could get $14,000 if she wanted it. Mr . . . told her just to get $9,500 because that would be the same that he had.

"MR. . . . and the lady left and went toward the bank. When they came back she showed me a check and said she wouldn't give her the cash. I told her she would have to have cash.

"She went back in the bank and stayed about a half hour. When she came out me and Mr . . . joined her.

"As we were walking down the street she told me the bank did not want to give her the money because they said she was being flim flammed.

"I told her I did not know why they felt that way, because I would not take anything from her.

"We went over in the Gas Building and I told her to put her money in my pocketbook and I would carry it up and show it to my boss. She said that it couldn't all go in so she gave me her pocketbook.

"I CAUGHT THE elevator and went down to the rest room where I took the money out and hid it on my person. I came back and told them that she would have to go up and talk to my boss herself, and he would give her the money plus the $1,000.

"She asked me to let her see in my pocketbook and I opened it. She looked in it and I closed it up. She snatched my pocketbook and said she was going to carry it up with her. I told her alright and she got on the elevator.

"We waited until it moved and then we left. We went to the car and left Baltimore right away. We drove to Richmond where we stopped at the bus station.

". . . . went into the men's room. When he came out he had a package wrapped in brown paper. He gave it to me and told me it was best that we split up.

"He said that he was going home to New Orleans and that he would call me.

"I took the bus and went to Columbia. When I opened the package it contained $1,230.

"When I was arrested I turned over $1,034 which was all the money I had left from flim flam" the statement concluded.

* * *

MISS BUTLER, through her attorney Marshall A. Levin, said she was given $3,800 by her father and was willing to make full restitution out of her weekly salary.

The defendant was ordered committed to jail pending a complete probation report.

Judge J. Gilbert Fender proposed that probation be granted Miss Butler under a long-sentence on the condition that she make restitution.

The swift arrest of the defendant was attributed to the fact that a card bearing her name and address was found in a purse that she left with Mrs. Robinson.

* * *

AT THE TIME OF her loss, Mrs. Robinson told the AFRO there was no use breaking down because "as long as there's life, there's hope and there's always tomorrow."

The 54-year-old matron found it hard to explain why she gave up the money but thought it might have been because "they talked so fast".

Mrs. Robinson told of how "nicely" she managed to stuff the money into her 12 inch purse before leaving the bank.

FREE "BAIL" ADVICE

Call
IKE DIXON
BAIL BONDS
Financial Responsibility Bonds (DMV)
Wilkens 7-1682

WELCH-BRISTOL
Insurance Agency offers
The New Home Owners Policy
One Policy With Full Coverage Against
FIRE THEFT SMOKE VANDALISM LIABILITY
Credit Allowed For Present Policies
Welch Bristol Ins. Agency
Call
CE. 3-6446

E. C. BAIL BOND
See ED CORSI first for
BAIL BOND SERVICE
OF ALL TYPES
TRAFFIC, FEDERAL and CRIMINAL BAIL
D.M.V. BONDS-TOO!
24-HOUR SERVICE
MU. 5-0400-1
611 E. BALTIMORE ST.

Rhone's Portable City-Wide CAR WASH
We are seeking that dirty car to wash & to clean. We come to you. New — Modern — Motorized. Just call:
WI. 5-1621 WI. 7-2473

HENRY CLAY
Brilliant Senator and statesman of the early 1800's

TASTE THE GREATNESS of historic **OLD CROW**

America's preferred bourbon

$4.85 Qt.
$1.55 Pt.
Plus Tax

Light · Mild · 86 Proof
KENTUCKY STRAIGHT BOURBON WHISKEY
OLD CROW DISTILLERY CO., FRANKFORT, KY., DISTR. BY NATIONAL DIST. PROD. CO.

IF YOU ARE NOW PAYING

RENT

IF YOU HAVE GOOD CREDIT...THE M. GOLDSEKER CO. HAS A SPECIAL PLAN FOR YOU!

YOU CAN NOW OWN THE HOME YOU WANT IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD OF YOUR CHOICE...WITH
NO RED TAPE...
NO OBLIGATION TO YOU!

SPECIAL NOTE: TO PEOPLE WHO ARE IN DOUBT ABOUT THEIR CREDIT
Here's your opportunity to "get in on this special plan by clearing all your problems with the Goldseker salesman. In most cases he can help you.

WE SAID IT AND WE MEAN IT! ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS CALL OR FILL OUT THIS HANDY COUPON AND A GOLDSEKER SALESMAN WILL BE HAPPY TO EXPLAIN THE PLAN...AND SHOW YOU HOW TO STEP UP TO BETTER LIVING!

I AM A RENTER AND I WOULD LIKE TO HAVE ALL INFORMATION ON THE RENTER'S PLAN.
NAME .....
ADDRESS .....
PHONE No. .....

M. GOLDSEKER MU. 5-3377
211 W. FRANKLIN ST., BALTIMORE 1, MD.

Gigantic SALE
FAMOUS MAKE
Perfume
Liquidating Stock of 5th Ave. Cosmetic Salon Permits Offering of Handsome, Popular
SPRAY CONTAINER
Of Nationally Accepted
PERFUME $2.50
At Spectacular Low Price
GREAT FOR GIFT or SELF
Offer Limited to 7 Days
With Money Order Sorry no C.O.D.'s Tax incl. We Pay Postage
PLEASE PRINT NAME AND ADDRESS PLAINLY
COMET PRODUCTS CO. *Liquidators*
P.O. BOX 1331 BALTIMORE 3, MD.

PALCHER'S RESTAURANT And BAR
2028 ASHLAND AVE.
Air-Conditioned
First Class Restaurant — Home-Cooked Meals
See food in Season
BEER • WINES • LIQUORS
FINEST IN BALTIMORE!
OR. 5-0528

IT'S BACK AGAIN!
MANTONE
VITALITY TONIC

AFRO AT CHASE STREET EXPLOSION

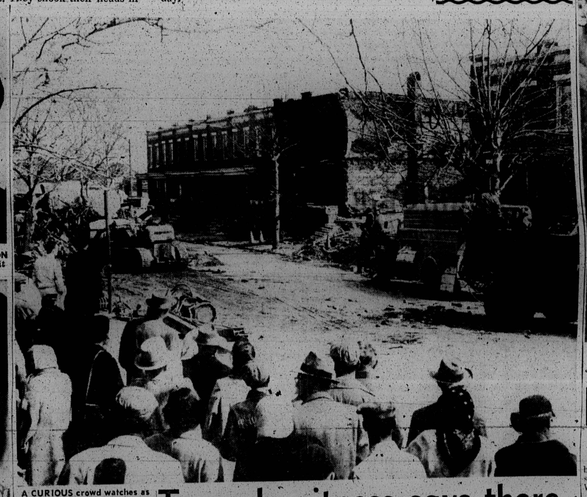
SURGING CROWD—Spectators surge forward to get look at damage caused by explosion and fire Wednesday on East Chase St. They shook their heads in disbelief as they saw what once was a row of beautiful and neat homes. This scene took place on Thursday.

MORNING AFTER—This is a view of the disaster scene the morning after. As the AFRO photographer revisited the scene Thursday morning he recorded mute evidence of destruction wrought by the tragedy. The gaping hole marks the spot where three homes once stood. Workmen stayed on duty around the clock to clear away rubble.

AFRO Staff Photos by I. HENRY PHILLIPS and OTHO MACKAY

MRS. HATTIE RICHARDSON
"He opened his door as it hit him in the face"

MRS MARY TYSON
"I saw a boy running—his face was bloody"



A CURIOUS crowd watches as bulldozers and other workers move rubble. Search for bodies turned up nothing. People from all over city flocked to disaster scene.

TRYING TO CHEER up Joseph Perry in Johns Hopkins Hospital where he is being treated for burns suffred during Chase Street disaster are Mrs. Virginia Perry, his wife, and Miss Melissa Perry, his sister.

—'A big boom'

(Continued from page 1)

suffered first degree burns and is in satisfactory condition.

A GAS COMPANY spokesman said the debris and damage hampered an investigation to determine the cause of the blast.

He also said late Thursday that gas service was still shut off in the area and customers were using gas heaters and hot plates issued after the explosion.

A Red Cross spokesman said, of the 20 families affected by the incident, only eight will need long-term rehabilitation aid.

The spokesman added that the eight families needing aid represent a total of 26 people.

The Red Cross will furnish such items as clothing, furnishings, cost for repairs and aid in building expenses.

To avoid confusion in their aid to the disaster victims, the agency said late Thursday:

"Contributions are not required. Sufficient funds are on hand as a result of the 1959 Red Cross United Appeal."

* * *

DURING THE height of the disaster, teams of Red Cross workers operated a shelter at St. Catherine Church. However, by 9 p.m., they closed as most of the persons affected were helped by neighbors.

Although declared under control by late afternoon, the fire kept firemen and salvage crews on the scene all night.

Families living at 2805, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15 and 17 were unable to return to their homes.

At pressime no estimation of damage had been made.

By mid-day Thursday Eastern District police said a search to determine if anyone had beed trapped in the explosion turned up nothing.

Residents of the block complained they had smelled gas just before the explosion which they described as "a big boom" or "a horrible sound" or "like a jet plane."

One termed it like "a mighty clasp of thunder, only louder and so close you could feel it."

Tragedy witness says there was a noise like thousand jets

By GEORGE W. COLLINS

It was a few minutes past 3 p.m. Wednesday.

The evening was chilly, but bathed in brilliant sun. Housewives were busy getting dinner for the eminent return of the working husbands.

Children, light hearted and gay, cheerfully played as they returned from school.

It was peaceful and quite in the 2800 block of E. Chase St.

Then it was 3:15 p.m. and as witnesses put it, "There was a noise sounding like a thousands jets."

* * *

WHAT FOLLOWED was a seemingly endless nightmare.

The thundering noise came from an explosion which reduced three homes to a mass of flaming rubble.

Minutes after the explosion, fire broke out. Before it was brought under control, three more homes were left in gutted ruin.

Water and smoke damage inflicted on others.

As the shocking drama unfolded before disbelieving eyes, terror swept through the area.

Mothers, infants in arms, toddlers by the hand, were running, praying and crying.

They were going nowhere in particular, but everywhere in general.

* * *

FLYING DEBRIS, shattering glass, parts of window sashes, blinds and curtains sailed through the air.

Walls, roofs and porches tumbled.

Giant spirals of billowing, black smoke weaved a crazy pattern as they soared heavenward.

Before the flames were contained, all residents on the southside of the block were evacuated.

Men and women, returning from work, raced to the scene.

Several women sobbed hysterically as they sought the whereabouts of their love ones.

When they found them, signs of relief were mumbled.

GRIM - FACED policemen, grimy-faced firemen and the forward surging of thousands curious added to the drama.

Fortunately, there were no deaths.

There were oddities. A white and blue, hot rod car, hand the word "untouchable" painted along its side. For five hours, it remained untouched as it sat in the middle of hustling firemen and workmen.

In a vacant lot at the end of the block, fire quilted a zigzag blanket as it consumed the dry blades of grass.

* * *

A HOUSE number panel 3809, rested against a porch on the opposite side of the street.

Inside the homes, half - cooked meals rested on deserted stoves. Gas in the area had been cut off.

A gas company attendant went from house to house arranging to leave hot plates and electric heaters.

Muted evidence of the destructive force of the explosion was the gaping hole left in the row of neat houses.

It was as though a child, tiring of his wooden blocks, suddenly kicked part of them away.

Twelve hours later at 3:15 a.m. Thursday, a bulldozer was working in what only a short time ago were cellars and basements.

* * *

MOUNTAINS of debris, piled high in the middle of the street and oil, flowing down gutters likewater, were further evidence of the deadlines of the accident.

It was amidst this disaster, whose cost will mount into thousands, that a question arose:

"Is such a widespread area of destruction, how was the hand of death stayed?"

No one knew for sure. But it was generally agreed:

"It was an act of God!"

It had to be. Because it was truly a tragedy in the afternoon.

Her first big story: a shocker

By CHARLOTTE DOWNIE

The dreams of a lifetime — being on the scene of a big story — finally came true Wednesday.

In a way it was all that I had expected and I'm afraid, a lot more, too. Maybe it would not have been so bad if it had not happened right here on the Eastside — my column beat.

There I was, scuffling as usual, trying like mad to get out my weekly Eastside column before the deadline, when there it was, right in my lap.

* * *

NEIGHBORS, as long as I live, I'll never forget the tragic sight that greeted me when I viewed the ruins of the explosion in the 2800 block E. Chase St. Wednesday evening.

Three houses were blown to the ground. Others were damaged. Treasures accumulated over years were gone. Homes were left over an area with no windows.

Tears came to my eyes as I glanced about and looked into the faces of my neighbors.

I guess you would call it beginner's luck that I happened upon one of the heroes of the evening — Johnny Isaacs Jr., 319 E. Chase St.

At the time he was just idently watching from the sidelines after having completed his rescue efforts.

* * *

WHEN I learned he was one of those who had to find sleeping quarters for the night, I volunteered to help him.

It was much later that I found out he had helped save lives during the disaster.

This first big story was real, if something, frankly, more. It was much-later that I found out it was a shocker.

JOHNNY ISAACS JR.
He returned to flaming wreckage again and again to rescue trapped victims.

MRS. CYNTHIA SMITH was busy with her new baby when disaster struck just around the corner. "I could see a stove dangling from the floor," she said.