

RAYTOWN NEWS 1943

January 14, 1943 Raytown News

9th JANUARY

Most of the Community Survived the Fire - No Lives Lost and No Business Firm Forced to Close Permanently - Victims of Spectacular Blaze Are Recalling Many Experiences

No lives were lost and not one business of Raytown is discontinued permanently as a result of the disastrous fire which struck Saturday afternoon. There were a few burned hands and a bruised foot or two but no serious injuries and according to those who watched the blaze down this remarkable score considering the blaze destroyed two buildings damaged four business buildings and threatened another four business buildings and a score of homes.

(Picture of firemen - Kansas City Star Photo- Willing Hands Help. War workers, school boys, and other volunteers lend a hand to tired firemen wet and cold after four hours at the end of the hose line. In the foreground of the picture is Roy Ring, 6900 Raytown Road, who later relieved the man shown next to the fireman at the nozzle of hose. Residents took turns at the task and help drag hose lines up and down the main street of Raytown when firemen changed position.)

What caused either the lumberyard fire or the Christian Church blaze is debated sufficient to say the loss of both is estimated close to \$200,000. Many will say they know what caused both disasters but there is no need at this late date for argument. The results are important now and even though all business and most contents were insured the fact remains that had there been a local fire fighting outfit available all losses would have been less.

Most of the local residents are fairly certain that at 1:30 o'clock in the afternoon, it was just another quiet Saturday in Raytown. But at 1:45 a wisp of smoke started the community on one of the wildest panic rides in many a year. Those close to the scene of fire number one are fairly certain the first blaze was seen attacking a rear shed at the Logan-Moore lumber yard. Then in ten minutes the entire layout appeared to be in flames. A few men and boys who were near, raced to drive trucks out and it was necessary to break a few locks to accomplish this as the yard was closed at noon on Saturday. Witnesses said that within minutes after the doors were opened at the front of the drive, which was through the heart of the building, were opened the draft sucked the flames into the entire building.

It is known that among the first material to be fired was the roofing store room. This was immediately a furnace. From then on it was mostly a question not of saving the building itself but on saving surrounding structures and some contents.

There are perhaps a number of unsung heroes in the community but to date none has been singled out. It was a case of everyone pitching in to help to save the community. Neighbors turned out solidly to aid in the work.

Fire crews from two Kansas City stations were called and responded. When they arrived they put their work efforts to saving adjoining buildings. The Logan-Moore building

was doomed from the first, and a stiff west wind soon fanned the flames into Dr. France L. Laffoon office and clinic, just a driveway separated to the east of the lumber yard.

Bob Prelogar, manager of the yard, saved some of the company's records, but nothing else of any value from the office. The safe, left in the blaze until Sunday morning, was hauled out and opened. All contents were in good condition and were not damaged by the heat.

Flames soon caught the rear of what is now the J. R. Short building just east of Dr. Laffoon's building. The upper rooms were occupied by Dr. and Mrs. T. Corcanges. The rear of the Herndon barber shop was in flames and the frame room at the rear of Dr. Corcanges office, just east of the barber shop was scorching.

In the meantime the two-story J. R. Short building, joining the lumber yard on the west, was plenty hot, and Mr. and Mrs. W. F. Muir Jr. and baby son were evacuated from the second floor rooms, as were Mr. and Mrs. Scott Graham and daughter, who also occupied rooms on this floor. The former Susie King café which occupied the ground floor until it closed January first, was warm and all of her equipment and a considerable amount of her belongings were in the building. Mrs. King and her daughter, Miss Evelyn King, had continued to live in the Café quarters.

Friendly men and boys aided Mr. and Mrs. Herman Rieder to take most of the stock of the dry goods store out, and place it in the Cassell and Cassell grocery store.

Harry Graham did not attempt to carry out any of his cleaning equipment just west of the Rieder Store, but he kept a watchful eye on the whole business.

Volunteers aided Dr. and Mrs. Corcanges in removing personal and household goods from their second floor living rooms, and the volunteers also had all of Jim Herndon's barber shop moved to a safe spot.

Plans were discussed by a few as to the handiest door through which to drag the equipment from The Raytown News building. But nothing was moved. Until the wind suddenly shifted from the west to northwest it appeared certain The News building would go with practically everything else in the block on the south side of sixty third street.

A shift of wind took sparks to the south, setting grass fires on vacant lots, and starting a blaze on the roof of Roy Donovan's home, a block south of The News office. This was extinguished quickly by alert work on the part of Roy and some helpers.

A lumber storage shed immediately south of the lumber yard proper was threatened, but saved by quick water work.

The James Wilson home south and a bit west of the yard, was in the spark area, also.

With ten or a dozen buildings threatened firemen had a busy time and many citizens expressed the belief that not only would all of the block be destroyed but twelve or more homes. Especially was this true when the Donovan house blazed. Had Donovan not been able to save his house, perhaps the homes of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Graham, Mr. and Mrs. George Clark, only a few feet south would have gone. With these in flames the Baptist Church house, the Lynn Dehoney, Bernard Hentschel, A. E. Garvin and Lowell Stafford homes would have been leveled as would the Bryan, Wiser, Henderson, Burch, Searcy and

Evans homes, all in the southeast part of the threatening flames. The homes of Mr. and Mrs. Lee Reynolds and Mr. and Mrs. Emory Foster also were in direct path of the blaze.

Only by pouring water into the scattered flames to keep sparks to a minimum was Raytown saved from a major disaster.

(A small part not copied but was a plea by the editor, Mr. Garvin, for the city to raise money to create a fire department and equipment.)

SECOND FIRE AND ARTICLE — The same night the Christian Church caught fire. "Christian Church destroyed again by the second fire. The \$39,000 brick building had been in use less than a year. It was discovered about 10 o'clock in the night. Homes threatened, on the east side of Blue Ridge boulevard was that of Mrs. Velma Wright, Jim Donaldson, Dr. F. L. Laffoon, Rev. O. P. Joyce, the William Greene home occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Shipley; across the street north of the church, Mr. and Mrs. George Wilson and John Hansen.

OTHER ITEMS — According to Dr. S. J. T. Davis, president of the Raytown Water Company, 360,000 gallons of water was used for the two Raytown fires, pumping at the rate of 600 gallons per minute by 6 o'clock in the evening the water tank was emptied. With the ability of refilling the tank at 500 gallons per minute there was no chance to catch up by the time of the Christian Church fire.

Dr. Corcanges will continue in his office after a clean-up.

January 31, 1943 Logan-Moore lumber yard destroyed in the fire purchased the Leidigh-Havens Lumber Company.

January 21, 1943 - Lee Dean Frost who had his tonsils removal interrupted at Dr. Laffoon's office and clinic by the lumber yard fire finally had the tonsils removed on Saturday and is reported recovering.

Bill Winters and Harry Grigsby left for the Great Lakes Naval Station

Raytown Grade School Weekly News report: Grade 1- neither tardy or absent in the second quarter: Carolyn Butts, Linda Lou Hentschel, Ginger Rogers, Werner Schafer and Laurence Tracy.

Grade 2 - Ken Butler, James Coffey, Emsley Curtis, Karl Glenn, Janet Gordanier, Jerry Loveland, Neil Miller, Juanita Moore, Vaughn Oetting, John Searcy

Grade 3- Shirley Bennet, Ann Brown, Dorothy Donovan, Sandra Ebbe, Martha Katherine England, Lee Clevenger, Jimmie Cresswell, A. J. Greenbaum, Jimmie Jennings, Ronnie McGranahan, Bobby Smith, Billy Anderson,

February 4, 1943 Raytown News

Following had perfect spelling grades: Dixie Boyle, James Aldrich, Gerald Baker, Mary Ceule, Nancy Graham, Elaine Hall, Ardyth Jones, Barbara Keator, Richard Lawson,

Vaughn Oetting, Dorothy Reinkemeyer, Drucilla Wilson (Possible 2nd grade)
Ration books could be obtained by mail.

February 18, 1943 Raytown News

Flora Belle Williams, 83 years old, died at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Goldie Frost, Tuesday morning following several weeks of illness. Mrs. Williams had not been in robust health for sometime. She had lived in the Stormy Point neighborhood for many years and was well known in that area.

She is survived, in addition to Mrs. Frost, by two other daughters; Mrs. E. E. Searcy of Raytown, and Mrs. E. M. Curtis, Skyland, N. C.; three sons; John William of Lee's Summit, Chester A. of Wilmington, Cal., and H. M. William of Fairmount district, twenty-one grandchildren and thirteen great grandchildren. Services Fegert Funeral Home, burial Brooking Cemetery. (Brooking Cemetery: Barney Williams Feb. 25, 1849 - June 15, 1927
Flora Belle Williams Nov. 25, 1859 - Feb. 16, 1942

February 25, 1943 Raytown News

Jim Herndon closes his barber shop and is employed at Lake City, except one day a week. Later he announces he will cut hair, by appointment, at his home.

In January the Finely-Shotwell Bus Line, Kansas City to Holden had published a schedule. By February 26 the government issued the warning, "If a bus does not haul 40 % load capacity the transportation office orders schedules be removed." Jim Duncan had been operating the bus line and it appears riders could not depend on the time schedule.

March 4, 1943 a schedule for three trips each way daily was issued, as: to Kansas City from Raytown: 7:26 a.m.; 11:05a.m. ; 4:41 p.m. Return from Pickwick headquarters: arrive Raytown 9:06 a.m.; 1:35 p.m.; 6:10 p.m.

Ration orders -use recapped tires , no new ones
Post office at Little Blue to be closed

March 11, 1943 Raytown News

Service list reprinted with additions:

Albert Abel	Sgt. Hollie S. Adams	Leroy Adler	Roy Anderson
Calvin Ashby	William E. Addison Jr.	James Applebury	Pete Asjes
Elmer Antle	Herman Basler	Pete Battles	Sgt. John Bauer
K. S. Bauer	Robert Bauer	Robert Beatty	Staff Sgt J. C. Bosse
Richard Bosse	Leon Bosse	Paul Bowman	Alfred E. Brandt
Frank Brandt	Billy Bragga	Bob Burnap	Johnnie Brown
John Becker	Sherman Brown	Corp. Lloyd Caldwell	
Corp. Joseph B. Clifton	Gordon Collings	Earl Corder dec.	Charles Crouse Jr.
Paul E. Crow	John Cox	Lt. Harold Curran	Delbert Corrigan
Elmer Carpenter	Billy Bob Caldwell	Stanley Caldwell	Billy Conway
Erwin Davis	Robert C. Davis	Clifton Day	Sgt Gordon DeBoer

Ralph Dehoney	Louis Donovan	Russell DeBoer	Ralph Dawson
Olin Davenport	Tom Doyle	George Bill Dagg	Capt. D. M. Eubank
Claude Epps	Richard Finley	Albert Foster	Corp. John Franklin
Staff Sgt Eldon E. Frost	Joe Fann	Charles Fann	Lee Dean Frost
Anthony Farrara	Everett Fetters	Bud Flanagan	Sgt Everett Goulding
James Grant	Lt. Charles Gault	Henry Houser	Earl Green
Elmer Grigsby	Robert Heady	Jack Hensley	John Elmer Hobbs
Jack Holm	Henry Houser	Jack Howard	Sgt Gilbert S. Hundley
Chester Hinkley	Sgt Morris Head	Russell Head	Billy Bob Hindrich
Elmer Horn	Bill Howard	Roy Howard	Ray Howard
Kenneth Jones	Desmond Keefer	Billy L. Kuhn	Henry Kupfer
Edwin H. Laird	Corp. Alfred Lasher	Lee Roy Lewis	Robert Lewis
Dean Lindsay (prisoner Japan)		Otis Livingston	Billy Leighty
Harold G. Mills	Claude Percy Moore	Dan Miller	James Mulford
Fred McElhinning	J. P. Miller	Jerry Mc Gee	Bob Mandel
Emery Newland	J. W. Nash	Fred Osterman	William Parker
Sgt Roy Payne	William E. Pfeiffer	Leroy Pierce	Joe Pisciotta
Charles Patrick	Charles Rice	Chris Rice	George Rice
Joe Roland	Ed Redford	Vincent Reiger	John Strohm
Claude Strohm	Jess Strohm	Fred Schwab	John Stokes
Sylvester Schoonover	Sgt H C Sechrest	Oliver Sheley	Cecil Shelton
Eugene Shepherd	Roy Smith	Stewart Smith	Staff
Sgt Kenneth Storms	Ralph Storms	Sgt Lester M. Strong	Bob Stokley Bob
Stilley	John Stilley	Grover Smith	Geo. A. Tobias Jr.
Ed Tenny	Ray Thompson	Leonard Teters	Marvin Thompson
Pvt 1 st Class Alva Thompson	Herbert Thompson	Capt. Billy Tesch	Harold Vance
Albert Vitt	Bernard Vitt	Bob Vogelsang	Max Waltham
Harold L. Wells	Wm. G. Winters	Floyd Williams	Orville Wendell
George Wagner	Paul Williamson	Herbert Wittemeyer	Forest Weyeneth
Bill Warden	Roy Wessly	James Winfrey	Forest Young dec

NAVY

John Arndt Jr.	Ralph Armstrong	Charles Bennett	Wallace A. Beatty
Wm. J. Burch	William Corder	Robert Corder	Paul Cella
Joseph Van Davis	Glenn Dawdy	Pare S. DeWalt	I. J. Ebbe
John M. England	Kenneth Farrand	Francis Fox	Harry E. Grigsby
Arthur Geary	Milton Gaugh	Jack Holm	Bob Hinkley
Edwin Hill	Samuel Jerome	Bob Krass	Frank Lingle
Frank Lolla	James Loveland	Doc Milan	Jimmie Messmen

Paul H. McDaniel
Harold Stillwell
Robert Whitaker
Wade Wall

Robert McGee
John Searcy
Ernest A. Ward
Allen Jerome

Carl Moeller
Clair Troupe
Garnett Walker Jr
Wayne Oaks
Jim Uhl
Jack Webb

MERCHANT MARINE

Charles H. Barnes
John Pfeiffer

David Crow
Courtney Smith

K. C. Knox
Walter Muehlebach

WAC

Frances Linder

COAST GUARD

Tom Hayes

Richard Rice

Harry Wendell

Clyde Cooper, Civil Services

OMITTED

Wm. Walkenhurst
Major Marvin Twiehaus
John Richard Giese - Navy
Ray E. Payne, killed

Roy Rolfeson
Corp. Kenneth Cracraft

John Nyquist

March 25, 1943 Raytown News

Lee D. Frost, son of Goldie Frost, 5805 Ash Ave., has begun an extensive course of study in aviation mechanics at the Amarilla Texas Army Air Field, one of the newest schools in the Army Air Force Technical Training Command.

He will spend several months at this mechanics school upon Uncle Sam's air bases, there to do his part keeping Flying Fortresses harassing the Axis.

April 22, 1943 Raytown News

George W. Cassell, 81, died at the Veterans Hospital, Wadsworth, Kansas, from a heart attack. He was able to be and out of his place of business, Cassell and Cassell Grocery, for several years. He was born and raised in Raytown. He graduated from the Raytown High School and Warrensburg State Teachers College. While he was attending Warrensburg College he spent several years in teaching school.

A few years before World War I he enlisted in the National Guard Unit in Independence. He was discharged with the rank of Captain. He was married during the war.

His teaching career included principalship of the Benton School in Independence and a term in Edgerton, Mo., was also employed at a Kansas City Bank and on the Old Kansas City Journal at times.

After World War I he returned home to enter the grocery business with a cousin whose interest he later purchased as sole owner but retained the firm name of Cassell and Cassell.

He was survived by his mother, Mrs. B. W. Cassell; his wife, Irene "Peggy"; daughter, Mrs. W. C. Blagg Jr.; sister, Mrs. A. C. Owings of Warrensburg; brother, Joseph Cassell. Burial in Brooking Cemetery.

(From Brooking Cemetery records by R. Bonnewitz):

Cassell, George W. II - June 21, 1891 - April 19, 1943

Cassell, Irene "Peg" Brackenberry, 86, died March 16, 1979, moved to Dover, DE to be with daughter, Claire Elizabeth Blagg)

May 30, 1943 Raytown News

Dr. Laffoon expects to return and occupy his own office within a week or two

May 27, 1943 Raytown News

Kansas City Is Making Eyes At Raytown (possible annexing)

June 3, 1943 Raytown News

Dr. T. Corcanges moved into larger quarters. He assumed the lease of J. M. Herndon, occupying the west one-half of the building where Herndon formerly operated his barbershop. Herndon will, by appointment, cut hair in his home.

June 17, 1943 Raytown News

Mrs. D. W. Collings Died Monday - Mrs. Alberta Dehoney Collings was born near Hickmans Mill, September 26, 1889; graduated from the Ruskin High School and attended Central Missouri State Teachers College in Warrensburg. She married Darius W. Collings August 15, 1919. Her two sons were William Lee Collings and John Gordon Collings. She was also survived by her mother, Mrs. Ella Dehoney; her sister, Ethel; brother, Byron M. Dehoney of Springfield. Buried in Brooking Cemetery.

(Collings, Darius W. 1890-1967 Collings, Albertain 1889 - 1943)

June 24, 1943 Raytown News

Because so many Raytown business men were engaged in World War I, the editor of The Raytown News, with sly humor, wrote an article entitle "Ladies Running Raytown". Of course this was loudly protested by the men folk, but this is the way the editor listed the ladies running their businesses: Peg Cassell for husband George W.'s grocery store- Mrs. Benckser opening Fox's Drug store while Francis was away Mrs. W. F. Muir Jr and Mrs. Forrest Muir at Muir's Drug Store Elsie Kwirant, her beauty shop

Mrs. Myrtle Clark and Mrs. Herman Rieder, the Dry Goods store at 7:30 in the morning
Mrs. Lybarger, the Café
Burns Grocery ??
Mrs. Ivan Ebbe, Missouri Public Service company
Mrs. Clifton the real estate office

July 15, 1943 Raytown News

After 22 years of business and the death of George W. Cassell, Mrs. Cassell sold the store to Forrest Schoeller, who has owned a store in Kansas City 17 years. He has been living in the Raytown area for three years in the Lee Forrest Caldwell home on Blue Ridge boulevard. He will open a Self Serve Grocery on August 19, 1943.

Specials offered: Folger's Coffee 2 lb. Jar 33cents, no ration books needed; 3 lb Crisco 69 cents; Laundry Soap 23 cents ; Pork Loin meat lb. 29 cents; Bacon 32 cents; Butter 47 cents a lb.

August 12, 1943 Raytown News

The Raytown Water Company had, about one year ago, installed three hydrants in the downtown area; 63rd and Raytown Road, 64th and Raytown Road, 60th and Blue Ridge boulevard near the high school. For a small rental fee three additional ones will be placed at: 54th and Blue Ridge boulevard, 63rd and Blue Ridge boulevard, and one between Cox Motors and Smith Brothers

September 2, 1943 Raytown News

Contains a list of teachers in all of the C-2 schools

September 9, 1943 Raytown News

FRANCIS FOX DIED SUNDAY VETERAN DRUGGIST OF MANY YEARS

Francis Fox, 69 years, formerly Raytown druggist, died at St. Joseph hospital Sunday. Mr. Fox had been ill for several years, since his retirement from business, and during the past several days had grown weaker. He was taken to the hospital late Saturday where he failed to rally and died the following morning.

Mr. Fox was a veteran in the drug business having been in that profession for nearly fifty years. He started his career in Kansas City, and was located at 23rd and Prospect and at 43rd and Prospect before moving to a main street in the south part of Kansas City. He sold his store there about fifteen years ago and purchased a building here. In November 1939 he sold his store here to W. F. Muir Jr. and Forest Muir. Mr. Fox took a vacation for several months but the lure brought him back to work shortly thereafter when he purchased a drug store in Holden. He operated the business there only a short time when health forced him to retire. He moved to Raytown and made his home here until his death.

Mr. Fox was born in the East where he received his education and came to Kansas City as a young man.

He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Clara Fox of the home, and a son, T. Francis Fox, a pharmacist's mate in the navy, now stationed in Lawrence, Kansas, and proprietor of Fox Pharmacy here.

Funeral services were held Tuesday morning at a Kansas City funeral home, burial in Mt. Calvary cemetery.

(* According to Raytown News articles Fox purchased his pharmacy in the Short building in the early 1930's. June 23, 1938 issue states has sold to W.F. Jr. and Forest Muir. W. F. says June 16th, 1938)

September 9, 1943 Raytown News

Willard Bivins suffered severe burns on his right shoulder and arm when a carburetor he was working on ignited and spread flames to his clothes.

Enrollment at the high school will top 300.

September 16, 1943 Raytown News

Members of the Christian Church have nearly completed removing all of the debris of the last January fire. They plan to begin construction soon.

Mrs. J. M. Herndon is employed at the Schoeller Self Service Grocery during the afternoon hours

Everyone is saving and collecting grease, part of the rationing program.

October 28, 1943 Raytown News

Mr. and Mrs. L. A. Lybarger have been in the restaurant business here for 14 years, 12 of them at their present location. They have sold the La Pearle Café to Ivan Blevens, who will take possession Monday. Blevens came to Raytown with a reputation of successful café operation. He lives southeast of here and has owned and operated several cafes near the Raytown community.

Mr. and Mrs. Lybarger have no immediate future plans except to take a much needed rest and vacation.

Mrs. Frances Harris, part time teacher, will take charge of the 8th grade in the Raytown Grade school until a teacher can be found to replace Harry Rice, principal, who left for service.

November 14, 1943 Raytown News

Mr. and Mrs. Carl Minor, who have been living in the Laura Wright place, just north of the Logan-Moore lumber yard have moved. Mr. and Mrs. James Cesar are occupying the home.

November 16, 1943 Raytown News

Private first class Lee Dean Frost has completed training. He has been graduated from the school of the army air force training command at Chanute Field, Illinois. While attending the school he received instruction in the propellor course and in maintenance of airplanes.

Walter Hartman, former employee of the Muir Pharmacy, is at home recovering from an attack of appendicitis.

December 9, 1943 Raytown News

Eliza C. Smith said that the Laurel Heights Realty Co. has completed plans to erect twenty-six homes: two-bedroom, frame construction, few with basement, some outside garage, 17 in 9500 block on East 68th terrace; 9 scattered throughout Laurel Slopes. Three new hydrants to be placed: 1. Intersection one block west of 63rd and Raytown Road; 2. 57th and Blue Ridge; 3. between Cox Motor and Smith Brothers building.

Schoellers Self Service, Raytown Road and Blue Ridge advertizing:

Pork Loin 27c lb. Butter 46c lb. 25 lbs Gold Medal Flour \$1.19

Slab bacon 32c lb. Folgers Coffee 33c lb.