

NAPA COUNTY FIRESTORM

\$60 Million In Damage As 25,000 Acres Burn

By L. PIERCE CAISON
Register Staff Writer

Four arson fires merged into a wind-whipped sea of flames Monday turning Napa County's today eastern foothills into a holocaust of incinerated luxury and middle income homes, blackened timber and charred livestock, game and pets.

With county officials placing damage estimates as high as \$60 million, approximately 80 professional and volunteer firefighters directed by the California Department of Forestry continued to battle a 12 mile wall of fire this afternoon on its steady eastern march toward Solano County.

Monday's raging fire charred 61 structures, including a number of quarter- and half-million-dollar Silverado area homes, leaving several hundred persons homeless. Nearly 25,000 acres, or about 5 percent of the county's land area, had been burned by early afternoon.

Miraculously, there have been no fatalities, although a total of eight persons — four of them firefighters — were treated at Quon of the Valley Hospital for minor burns and injuries.

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More On The Fire

Napa And Out-Of-County Crews Battle The Flames

By SEAN SILVERTHORNE
Register Staff Writer

An army of firefighters, law enforcement personnel and volunteers put Napa County's emergency preparedness program to its sternest test Monday and firefighters from throughout the state responded to the Napa inferno.

Some 80 firefighters from more than 20 counties, as well as most local crews, are working the fire today, the California Department of Forestry reported this morning.

Today's strategy is to work the head of the fire with some 20 handcrews, helicopters and aerial bombers. Backfires will be used to take the starch out of the rapidly advancing flames and fire lines will be established.

Officials would not estimate when the fire might be contained or controlled.

Fire and law enforcement officials worked double and even triple shifts throughout the night, reported Napa County Sheriff Rudy Stewart.

Strategies to fight the blaze were constantly changed Monday in the face of strong winds and threatened homes, the CDF reported.

As homes began to burn, firefighters focused their efforts on saving untouched property rather than trying to control

already fire-involved structures.

"Once you talk us to help, but it was too late. It was already gone," recalled Napa County Sheriff Captain Tom Johnson.

"He was numb. He wasn't angry with us."

A law enforcement command post was established at Silverado Trail and Hamilton Avenue where police, Sheriff's and California Highway Patrol officers

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A Weary Yountville Fire Camp

By RICK WALLERSTEIN
Register Staff Writer

YOUNTVILLE — There was little talk of bravery when the 800 firefighters who battled Napa's firestorm struggled into camp this morning after working 16 hours through the night.

The firefighters were too tired and too hungry to boast of the lives and property they had saved. The firefighters — some professionals, some California Conservation Corps members and some convicts — had worked through the night in an attempt to control a 25,000-acre blaze.

They had worked from the early Monday afternoon start of the fire until 7 a.m. today without a break and with nothing to eat but K rations. As they struggled into the California Dept. of Forestry's camp at the Yountville Veterans Home today, many talked of burning homes, dead animals, and the heavy smoke to which they had worked.

Karen Frederick from the Cloverdale Division of CDF spent the night on top of Atlas Peak Road bluing down houses to

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RAVAGING NEARLY 25,000 acres and causing an estimated \$60 million in damage, Monday's fire reached temperatures in excess of 1,400 degrees, as evidenced by this melted automobile photo by Dick Hildebrand.)

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First Only Whiff Of Smoke, Then Suddenly Raging Inferno

By KEVIN COURTNEY
Register Staff Writer

It all started with a whiff of smoke Monday as Maureen Cristofel was nursing her seven-month-old baby and trying to find relief from six straight hours of oppressive heat.

When she went onto the deck of her Atlas Peak Road home to investigate, she found her 7- and 13-year-old sons staring down the base of the hill at an approaching fire.

"There was no panic at first. 'I'm used to fires every year or so. Usually Forestry is very adept at these things."

But this one was going fast and the wind was blowing hard," she said.

Home alone with four of her five children, she anxiously called the California Department of Forestry, asking what she should do. "Forestry told me to stay in my house and if evacuation were necessary they'd come and evacuate me."

Reassured, she put out field glasses to take a better look from her hillside deck. The reassurance quickly vanished. The base of Atlas Peak was encircled by fire, with a second fire front coming from above.

"It looked like a raging inferno. It was a

raging inferno. It looked like an atomic bomb. I put my kids in the car and tried to go down the hill."

When a friend down the road stopped them, saying the escape route was blocked, she returned to her home and decided to mount a fire defense.

"I ran in and grabbed a fire extinguisher and we made a brief attempt to take a better look from her hillside deck. The reassurance quickly vanished. The base of Atlas Peak was encircled by fire, with a second fire front coming from above."

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Napa Maps Inferno Battle Plan

Today's Strategy: Handcuffs, Planes

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monitored radio broadcasts and deployed units stood by prepared for enroute victims, but none were used, said Napa County Administrator Albert Habegger.

Most people drove out to their own vehicles or to neighbors.

Meanwhile, the county's emergency preparedness plan swung into action Monday afternoon.

Napa Valley Unified School District buses stood by prepared for enroute victims, but none were used, said Napa County Administrator Albert Habegger.

Habegger coordinated an emergency medical unit available through Queen of the Valley hospital, and it remains on standby today.

Habegger said the Red Cross is operating a "central directory" for housing and other information today and is available by calling 226-9021.

Local hotels and motels offered rooms for overnight stays, but Habegger said most fire victims were able to find their own lodging.

Even a group of citizen band radio enthusiasts stepped in to help Habegger keep in touch with law enforcement officials at the fire scene, he said.

"Personally, I am very proud of the help contributed by different organizations," Habegger said. "We could have had any other situation."

"It is unfortunate that homes were lost, but it is also fortunate that many homes were spared. I think it is important to look on the positive side."

Counties that have sent fire crews include San Diego, Riverside, San Bernardino, Mendocino, Santa Clara, Alameda, Monterey, Marin, Contra Costa and Calaveras. More than 20 counties have responded to the mutual aid call.

Fire fighting efforts were coordinated through "zone chiefs," air controllers flying above the fire and the CDF dispatch center in St. Helena. In addition, the county dispatch center handled law enforcement and emergency related calls.

Winds of 20 to 30 miles per hour pushed flames rapidly across rocky terrain and several firefighters reported becoming briefly trapped by encircling flames.

Four firefighters were treated at Queen of the Valley Hospital for mostly minor injuries from smoke inhalation. No equipment had been lost, contrary to early reports, the CDF said.

Some 30 fire engines, 15 bulldozers, 15 aerial ladders and four helicopters were swarmed over the fire.

DRY WILDLAND AND TIMBER served as explosive kindling for 25,000-acre fire that has ravaged Napa's

eastern hillside. The fire continues mostly unchecked today. Damage to structures and property is expected to

be in the millions of dollars. Fire crews from more than 20 counties have responded to Napa's mutual aid calls.

These flames were set by firefighters as a backfire at Windy Place. (Register photo by Al Francis)

Arsonist Sets Napa County Abaze

Three remain hospitalized.

CDF officials today said four separate fires were deliberately set within five minutes of one another about 1:30 p.m. Monday. Two fires were set on Silverado Trail in the vicinity of Rector Dam, while another two were set in the area of Soda Canyon Road and Silverado Trail.

By nightfall, the fires had merged into a single inferno raging eastward through the sparsely populated foothills. Firefighters were still fighting the conflagration on several fronts early this afternoon. On the western edge, a pocket of fire was burning in the Chimney Rock area southeast of Yountville.

Firefighters were attempting to keep the flames out of Woods Valley, although it did burn down into a corner of the valley at Dukes Curve early this morning. That portion of the fire was contained, officials reported today.

Major concentrations was the fireline along Highway 29, as flames licked away at the unseasonably dry brush and timber in the areas of Leno Lakes, east of Mount George.

Gusty, erratic winds were predicted to

push the fire to the southeast and into Soda Canyon in the vicinity of Wild Horse Valley this afternoon. The fire was about two six miles northwest of the Solano County line at noon today.

CDF officials had feared the fire would spread last night to summer resorts at Lake Berryessa. However, as skies reflected the hot glow of the devastating inferno, shifting winds directed the fire to the east. It remains about six miles from Soda Canyon Road, CDF officials noted.

Aerial bombing ceased at nightfall Monday, but early this morning 13 aerial tankers and four observation aircraft attacked the wildfire from the sky.

Estimated to be 30 miles in circumference, the raging wildfire was about 10 percent controlled at late morning, officials estimated. They also declared it had been controlled in the Silverado area.

Once flames reached the upper stretches of Soda Canyon Road and burned over toward Atlas Peak consuming everything in its path along Old Soda Canyon Road reports of firestorms and exploding houses and brush were commonplace.

Armed with fire hoses and garden hoses, firefighters, homeowners and heroic volunteers attempted to save homes from the flaming onslaught. Sometimes they won, sometimes they didn't.

"It's really bad—I'm getting out of here—my shoes are melting," one firefighter gaped into a fire truck microphone shortly after 4 p.m. Monday from an Atlas Peak vantage point.

Another report a few minutes later had firefighters battling flames in Soda Canyon, reporting they couldn't get an 11-year-old woman to leave her home despite the fact it was on fire.

Around 5:30, firefighters reported they were attempting to save an Atlas Peak Road home but didn't have enough water. A subsequent firestorm made mock of their efforts.

Sprinklers pumping water from deep arroyos well kept the fire from doing much damage at Silverado Country Club, even helping save some of the homes on the perimeter of the fire. No homes at Silverado were burned.

Shortly before noon today, sheriff's

deputies had confirmed that two dozen homes had been leveled by the raging inferno. Unconfirmed reports had 30 structures burned in the Atlas area, another 15 in Soda Canyon.

Firefighters from places as distant as San Diego are on the extensive fire line today.

About half of the 800 men and women fighting the fire come from 10 commercial facilities, including inmate centers from both adult and youth facilities. Also a large number of California Conservation Corps members are fighting the fire along with CDF personnel.

The county's emergency medical services team swung into action Monday afternoon.

Soon thereafter, Queen of the Valley Hospital was prepared to take care of any injured fire victims and the gymnasium at Napa High School was opened to shelter evacuees. However, several hundred fire victims were able to find shelter with friends and other valley residents who opened up their homes to them.

Also prepared to accept evacuees were the California Veterans Home, the Napa Seventh-day Adventist Church shelter at Napa Valley State Hospital. The Napa chapter of American Red Cross had rounded up about 40 accommodations for the homeless. In addition, Holiday Inn and Silverado Country Club volunteered rooms for fire victims.

"It was a typical Napa community effort," County Administrator Albert Habegger said today. Habegger is director of this county's emergency services. "Everyone was alerted—our hospitals were put on standby. We have a well-oiled operation."

The Salvation Army prepared sandwiches for road line fire crews and Napa High School cafeteria personnel prepared a spaghetti dinner to be sent to a firefighters rest area.

Calls from all over the county about the dispatch center at the Napa sheriff's Department last night from area residents who volunteered to fight the fire, give victims shelter, loan livestock trucks to transport displaced farm

animals and offered even direct traffic.

Under Sheriff Don Jones said as an aspect of the fire-out area showed little left of homes save for fireproofs and swimming pools.

While there were numerous fears expressed about possible looting, only one house, headlights picked up a young male walking from a home with a TV set in hand. When he spotted firefighters he dropped the set and ran.

In another fire-related incident, a sheriff's deputy restrained cuts and bruises Monday night when he was hit by a motorist trying to break through a roadblock at Soda Canyon Road and Silverado Trail.

Byron Anderson, 42, 1981 Soda Canyon Road, was arrested for possession of assault with a deadly weapon after Deputy Steve Sprengelmeier was injured shortly after 7 p.m. Sprengelmeier was treated at Queen of the Valley Hospital and released.

The Tired 800

(Continued from Page 1)

keep them from burning and trying to convince residents to evacuate the fire area. "He told them to leave but they just didn't want to. We had to fight the fire around them."

Steven Montenegro from the Winster Fire Department had to contend with runaway cattle that had been released by neighbors in battling house fires along Monticello Road.

Russ Comer from the Yavapai Fire Department, got three quarts of soda pop from a homeowner whose house he saved.

Comer said when he arrived at the house the fire was so intense that the water in a water tower at the house was boiling. Comer and other firefighters were unable to save the water tower or an adjacent garage but did manage to save the house. For that they were rewarded with the soft drink.

The Napa blaze was Richard Williamson's seventh fire this month. He is an inmate at the Konocti Camp and regularly fights fires as a member of a band crew. For his work he is paid 75 cents an hour.

Today Williamson found his reward at the canteen. After a night of K ration he

breakfasted on five scrambled eggs, nine pieces of bacon and eight pieces of toast. The Konocti crew was working near the Big Y Leap Winery, cutting firebreaks around expensive homes.

Williamson said "It was really too bad, they had just cut the grass away, half the houses in the area wouldn't have burned."

Jesse Keaton, another member of the Konocti crew, has just days left to go on his sentence. He said most of the Konocti crew had been convicted of crimes involving narcotics, assault or petty theft. Some of them were not dangerous criminals.

Lynn Fordon joined the California Conservation Corps two months ago and has been training to fight fires. Like other firefighters battling the Napa blaze, she carries a canister of tear gas on her belt. The pouch contains an atomizer tube into which she can crawl for protection should she be trapped in the fire. The firefighters call the tube the "breathing bag" because they fear that in an intense fire it would fall and they would be cooked like baked potatoes.

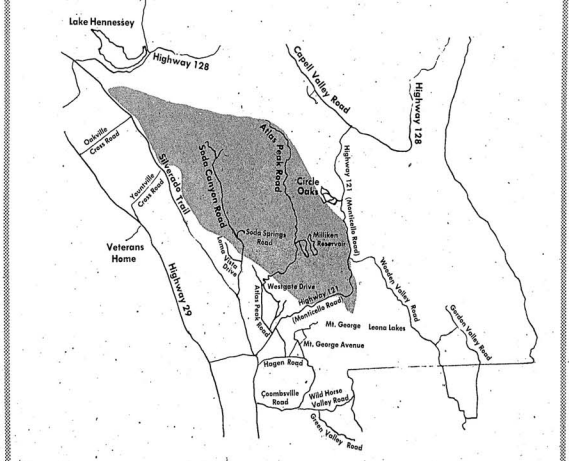
Gary McInnis worked on Soda Canyon Road through the night. At one point he approached a two-story Victorian ranch-style house just as flames entered the edge of the property. A woman came from the house carrying a baby and asked McInnis if he should leave. Yes, he insisted. And the woman did. McInnis and other firefighters were able to save the woman's home.

He reported that most people cooperated with firefighters and left their homes as requested to go to some of the people, however, returned to their homes too soon and posed problems for fire traffic.

Mike Edwards, a crew chief with the CDF, came upon an elderly man who refused to leave his house on Atlas Peak Road. "He said he didn't want to leave because it was his house and was the only thing he had," Edwards said he told the man to leave and save his house.

"Hope, that's my last name," the man replied.

Edwards was able to save his house.



THE SHADED AREA on the above map shows that portion of the Napa Valley area consumed by fire as of noon today. Flames have blackened an area at least 20 miles long and 30 miles in circumference. As of early

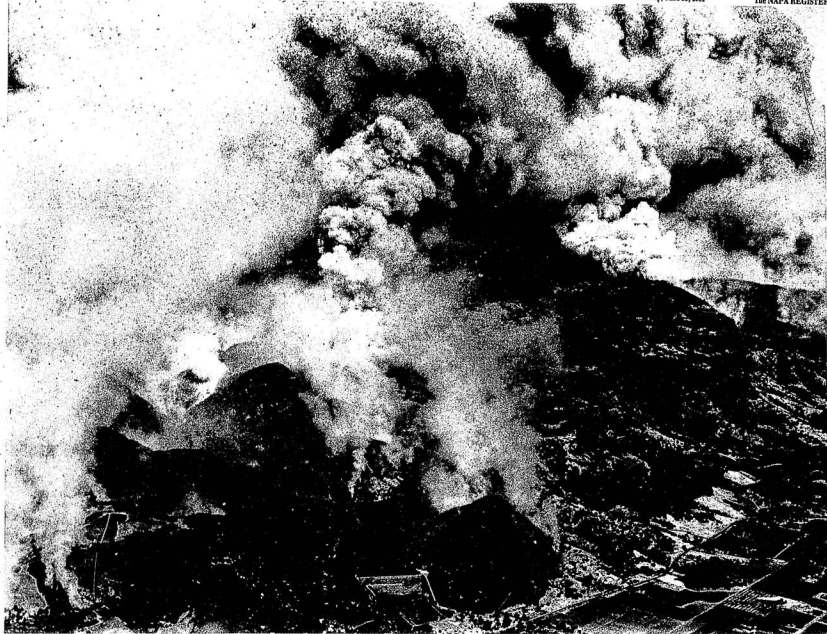
today, the fire was 30 percent contained but was moving eastward toward Solano County. Fire officials

were unable to predict when advancing flames might be halted. (Register graphics by Steve Olsen)

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FIRE PUSHED across eastern Napa hills Monday leaving some 65 homes destroyed and smoke filling

the valley. Strong winds carried smoke as far as Sacramento and Stockton, it was reported. Some 800

firefighters today are swarming across mostly rural property in the Wooden Valley area to fight the

blaze. Meanwhile, area investigators comb the probe into the origin of four blazes, which com-

bined into a giant conflagration burning more than 20,000 acres. (Photo

courtesy of Bridgetted Flying Service and Tom Schmitt)

Atlas Peak, Soda Canyon Nightmare

'I Saw The Whole Damn Hill Explode'

By STAN VAGHIN
Register Staff Writer

"I saw the whole damn hill explode. It just literally blew up," I worry Joe Ramos said this morning, reflecting on the inferno that surrounded his home Monday afternoon.

Ramos, a Napa police officer, was off duty Monday, working his ranch property, located near the site of the paved portion of Soda Canyon Road. He was one of the lucky ones, his home is still standing today.

There were others that survived the inferno, like Atlas Peak Road neighbors Larry and Carla Bailey and Mr. and Mrs. John Trapp.

But, on Atlas Peak Road it appeared that 90-percent of it were not so lucky. The fire was devastating, leaving nearly everything in its way.

"All of a sudden it got very yellow outside, there was all kinds of smoke," said Ramos. That was about 12 o'clock. That's when the dry, grass-covered hill behind

his home burst into flames, with a raging intensity. The wind was driving the fire toward the Ramos home, which had survived a similar fire 18 years ago, then the wind took a sudden change in direction.

"The wind started sucking back into the fire. The fire was blowing down the far hill towards the house, but the wind was going back into the fire," Ramos said.

Ramos and his brother-in-law, Don Andrade, then it a fire near the house, a backfire, and it swept back up the hill to the main fire, saving the structure.

By 5 o'clock the entire area was smoldering. The fire had spread so quickly, Ramos couldn't think of moving his livestock to safe pasture. "I just let them loose and fend for themselves," he said this morning that all survived.

"When the first fire trucks got here, there was nothing they could do. They were telling people to get out, they were just evacuating," said Ramos.

Ramos and Andrade decided to leave about then. "We had backfired, and there was nothing else we could do," said Ramos. As he passed his neighbor's home, Edmond Sawyer, he saw it burst into flames. The neighbor was in North Carolina, but planned to return today.

Like so many others in the area, there was nothing for Sawyer to return to. Only a partial wall and fireplaces were standing. The pool water was darkened by ash.

Ray and Gemma Martinez were able to save their home on Soda Canyon Road, giving some credit to their goats. The goats, said Ray Martinez, had eaten the grass down around the home, leaving little to burn.

Carla Bailey was in Napa when the fire broke out. She raced home, through flames, about 2:30 p.m. to reach the Atlas Peak Road residence.

Bailey and her houseguests, Matt, Terry, who is five months pregnant, and Scotty Santa Maria, and a friend of Scotty's, fought the fire with garden hoses for 10-15 minutes, then started using buckets.

When the flames got close to two fuel tanks near the Bailey home, the fire took cover in the basement until the 600 gallons of fuel and diesel exploded.

"It got pretty smoky in there," Larry Bailey said this morning, noting the blast sent rocks through the garage door.

Larry arrived home after 6 p.m. The fire had made a loop around his home. A so fortunate, Jim March's residence was completely destroyed. March spent the night in the Bailey home.

The Troops live just around the bend from the Baileys. Frances licked the outside walls of their home, and burned part of the roof, but most of the structure was saved. The best was so intense that welding on lawn chairs next to the house melted.

"It's just awful," John Troop said today, looking over his property and the valley below. "Some have nothing left."

Troop built his home in 1967, following a fire that swept the Atlas Peak area the previous year. "We feel lucky, but all of our hard work..." Troop said, listing his voice tall off.

Mrs. Troop was talking to her son about the fire yesterday afternoon when the lines went dead. Many residents, including Mrs. Troop, in the area gathered at the Circle S Ranch to wait the fire out.

"We were one of the lucky ones," Mrs. Troop said today, as she looked at holes in her roof.

Troop cut a fire circle around his home just a couple of weeks ago, "but it didn't do much good," he said. "I

couldn't believe it (the fire). It moved so fast, and it was like a furnace."

The Troops were looking to find a generator to supply their home with power for the next few weeks. One Pacific Gas and Electric workman in the area this morning said it would be like "starting from scratch," supplying power to the area. New poles for powerlines would have to be put into place, but the utility company was assembling extra crews this morning and the poles were being brought up the hill.

A building contractor, Troy Fraser, built a number of homes on Atlas Peak Road. He was there this morning assessing the damage.

"It's heart sickening to see it go," said Fraser. "This fire was not as fast as the one 18 years ago, but this one has destroyed more."

"I hope they catch the guy and string him up by his heels," Fraser said of the unknown person who apparently set four fires that started the blaze.

Assistance: How To Get It And Give It

The following numbers can be used by fire victims requiring assistance and citizens who want to contribute aid.
Red Cross — 226-1975, 226-9021, 226-9022 — for information about fire victims and the relief effort. Victims should register with the Red Cross which is compiling a comprehensive registry so as to answer inquiries from friends and relatives.
Salvage Army — 226-6556 — for donations of furniture for fire victims.
Napa Seventh-day Adventist Church — 226-6022 — for donations of clothing.
Napa High School — 226-5311 — food donations.
Volunteer Center — 226-4022 — can provide transportation for fire victims needing to shop or run errands. Also a general resource.
Burlington — 226-6111 — infant and maternity clothing available.
Church Women United — 1720 Action St., open till noon — clothing available.



SODA CANYON resident Joe Ramos looks over the remains of his neighbor's home. The house and all its contents

were leveled by the intensely burning fire. Ramos was able to save his own home, setting a backfire to cut the

spreading flames before they could reach it. The Ramos home also survived

a similar fire 18 years ago. (Register photo by Al Francis)

Families Lose Everything But Lives

(Continued from Page 1)

car. "I was looking for some official to tell me what to do but couldn't find one." She tried two neighbors' homes, but found none there.

That's when her oldest son suggested they go to Clifford Riley's place. "My son said he really knew about fire. That he had a cleared area," said Mrs. Grinnell. When they arrived, Riley had them park the car in his clearing and ordered them into his home. Within minutes Riley's clearing started to burn.

Mrs. Grinnell panicked at the sight, deciding she had better try to find safety for her children elsewhere. But when she tried to leave, Riley pulled out a badge — she doesn't know what kind of badge — and insisted she stay put.

"I did what he said. I felt he was a man who knew what he was doing, so I'd trust him," she said.

"I took my little children into the house. I damped wash cloths and towels and gave one to each child." As the brush near the house began burning, Mrs. Grinnell ushered her kids from room to room, finally settling for the bathroom.

"I was huddled on the bathroom floor with the children, nursing my baby. I tell you, I wasn't sure we were going to make it. I told my children we'd survive. I kept saying we were strong and people had come through wars."

"I made some bargains with God. I told him we wouldn't complain about the small things in life if we were spared."

While Mrs. Grinnell sheltered her children inside, the Rileys were outside doing everything in their power to keep the flames at bay. Their harrowed by, but they succeeded in protecting the house.

"I think Mr. Riley should be given heroic credit," said Mrs. Grinnell, noting that he took time periodically to drive her to different locations to keep it away from the flames. "I thought, 'My life was saved by someone I've never met before,'" she said thankfully.

"After the fire had passed, I sort of had this end-of-the-world quality. There was all this smoke and the sun was a red ball in the sky."

"Then I drove down the hill. I kind of grieved myself. I didn't know if I'd be a widow or if I'd have a home."

Her house was gone. "It's just scared beyond recognition. Everything is irreplaceable but human life. I'm just glad to be alive." Her husband later joined the family.

"I'm really unhappy that Forestry didn't do a better job by me," she said today. "They told us to stay in our house. If I stayed in our house I'd have died."

Dozens of other Napa residents traded similar details of their property, only to find that the worst of the fire was not yet over. Many firemen retreated, but some stayed. One fireman, who stayed, said he never had a chance.

Armed with a garden hose, her dog at her side, Mrs. Berendson was the sole defender of her Atlas Peak home as the wildfire raged straight at her.

She was protecting the house that her husband and she built a quarter of a century ago. Four times before they had known close calls with fire. Maybe they would be lucky this time, she figured.

"I had everything pretty well wetted down," Mrs. Berendson recounted later. "Then the electricity went. The pump went out."

"Soon the flames were all around the house. The wind had created a fire storm. It was a regular fire storm. The native plants, the bay brush and laurel were going off like firecrackers and exploding. "That boy from down the hill said he better get out of there. I thought so too."

When the pair tried to flee down Atlas Peak, a neighbor turned them back. It was hell below, he said. The only escape route was the road.

Mrs. Berendson walked anxiously in a yard surrounded by a large wall while the fire swept over the lower hill. When the immediate danger seemed past, she ventured down.

"We drove through the flames. Children were falling on the car. There were dead deer along the road and fallen trees."

When we got to the house it was going. The flames were burning my red bedroom rug and drapes."

"We watched it burn from all angles," said her husband, Dr. Raymond Berendson, who by this time had made it up the hill to check his wife's safety.

"We built that house in 1955," recounted Mrs. Berendson, fighting back tears. "I had all of my inherited family possessions, plus my husband's valuable medical instruments. You know, the labor of love you put in a home."

"I walked out with only this purse," she said. "Even my diamond wrist watches are gone. I said to my husband, 'Well, we're starting out the way we did when we first married. We don't have a dime to our name and only each other.'"

The scorching force of the fire was unbelievable unless you were there, her husband noted. That morning he had watered his lush lawn. When disaster struck, the green grass burned to the roots.

Beth Gibson was at work in Vallejo Monday when a friend called to say there was a fire near her home. "By the time I got there my house was gone."

"I had dogs inside the house, but I couldn't get them out. It was a terrible infirmity," said the Atlas Peak High resident. "I lost two horses, my pet goat, three dogs and four cats, besides my outside cat."

Only Gibson's dog Rusty escaped. "It's a fence climber. That's how he got out." As the smoke billowed down, his paw burst from his frantic breakout.

"Poor thing, he hasn't left my side," said Gibson. "He's probably going to require a psychiatrist's couch."

When Gibson returned to her house at day's end, she found a charred lot. "Nothing was standing. Only the rock fireplace."

"I don't think anything could have saved it," she noted. "I had water barrels all around, but what could you do?"

"I saw one had this — a deer burning. It came across the road, hit back on fire. This is maybe what we look like. It's the terriblest thing I've ever seen."

When Al Achilles arrived at the county evacuee center, his deep depression and the arm bandaging gave him the look of someone who had barely won a fight for life.

As engineer at Golden Gate Switchboard, Achilles rushed to his Atlas Peak home at mid-afternoon to rescue his dog. "The fire just got to the house when I got there. The whole hill was on fire. It was moving so hot and fast. It just blew over the house."

Achilles first tried to run into the back yard to submerge himself in his swimming pool. He was beaten back by heat blast that burned his exposed arms.

As he talked about his ordeal, his left ear dripped, seeming from perspiration. Finally someone noted that Achilles had

"The only thing we could recognize that didn't get burned was the garbage can and the steel clothes rack in the back yard," said Capps. "I had a World War II jeep that I'd had for 20 years. It'd still engine down."

"We'll set it up differently next time. Maybe make it a little tougher for a fire to start," he announced. No more shake rattle. "Shake rattle are a mistake in that area."

"I walked out with only this purse," she said. "Even my diamond wrist watches are gone. I said to my husband, 'Well, we're starting out like we did when we were first married. We don't have a dime to our name and only each other.'"

an open burn that had not yet been treated.

"It was just like a blast furnace," said Achilles, who managed to rescue his dog, Teddy Bear from the kennel. "You couldn't walk within 100 feet of the damn place."

Achilles says there was no way of saving his quarter-million-dollar home. "Snuffing a fire I could see, but not a subsequence. If the whole world was on fire, what do you do?"

George Capps had himself equally impotent when he rushed from Napa to try to save his half million dollar Atlas Peak home.

"I couldn't get any closer than 100 yards," said Capps whose eyebrows were singed. "If you can imagine several hundred yards of flame shooting 40 to 60 feet into the air. Trees were exploding."

When Capps lost his wife Geri up the hill later to survey the damage, "she collapsed," he reported. "My wife is totally upset. I don't upset me at all. I told my wife, 'We don't have any bladders on the hill with anything else. If it were the only thing we had I'd be crying.'"

Capps said his house was placed on one of the most jobs in Napa, with spectacular views of San Francisco and the Napa Valley. He plans to rebuild.

After what he had been through, Achilles said he and his wife wouldn't rebuild on Atlas Peak for anything in the world. "Life's too short," he said.

"I wouldn't dare leave my dog home for one minute any more in fire season. I'm going to live somewhere in the middle of the ocean."

The Berendsons are willing to give Atlas Peak a second chance. "Having seen fires before — the return of green within two to three years — maybe I have enough years left to see it through," said Berendson. "Anyhow, we have to be something."



A VOLUNTEER firefighter dunks his head in a swimming pool behind Silverado Country Club, trying to find

relief from the searing heat. Efforts to keep the fire away from homes beside

the country club were successful. Later, the firefighter was treated for leg

burns. (Register Photo by Bob McKen-



HER HOME reduced to rubble, Atlas Peak Road resident Elizabeth Achilles is comforted by a neighbor Monday night at the Napa High School relief center. Her husband sustained arm and

hand burns in a successful attempt to rescue the family dog. The Achilles' don't if they will rebuild in such a fire-prone area. (Photo by Dave Molloy)

Minute-By-Minute Report Of Raging Inferno

1:30 - First fire reported
2:40 - Four separate fires confirmed, two on Silverado Trail, two on Soda Canyon Road.
2:40 - 10-12 acres involved on lower Soda Canyon, "pretty good size of spread."
2:50 - "We could see an air drop on this north Soda Canyon fire. It's getting into some heavy brush."
2:50 - No air tankers in area reports CDOP. "Hope to get on."
3:00 - Keeping an eye on

some structures on Soda Canyon, could be in danger.
3:00 - Fire moving toward Knight's residence, Soda Canyon Road.
3:00 - Structure protection at 7779 Silverado Trail.
3:10 - Structure on fire, 1227 Soda Springs Road.
3:10 - Several structures on fire on Silverado Trail.
3:20 - Fire traffic on Trail on Oak Knoll. "It looks like we're going to have the thing going."

3:30 - Report of fire near Westgate Drive at Silverado. Can this be confirmed?
3:40 - Closing off Silverado Trail at Tronzo to all traffic until we get idea of situation.
3:40 - Animals on Soda Canyon Road, could be problem for fire trucks.
3:40 - Fire surrounds Milliken treatment plant.
3:40 - CDOP issues order: "Protect structures only."
3:40 - Power lines falling across roadways.

3:50 - "There's another structure up the road. Don't worry about that. It's empty. There's fire all around."
3:50 - Westgate and Atlas Peak: "We've got a pretty serious situation out here."
4:00 - Fire right by bubbling Wells, have pool if need to pump.
4:10 - "We're putting water in the structure down here. I think we can handle that."
4:10 - Firefighter gasping for breath. "We lost one down the

road."
4:20 - "It's looking pretty bad up here."
4:30 - Milliken dam: house on fire.
4:30 - Five structures ashore at end of Soda Springs Road.
4:30 - 85-year-old woman refusing to leave burning residence.
4:30 - 2000 block Atlas Peak: "It's so smoky you can't see a foot in front of you. Cars are still getting out. I

don't know how they do it."
4:30 - 15 to 20 structures not already destroyed.
4:30 - 2000 Atlas Peak: fire in both sides of the road. There's supposed to be somebody in the back of the house. "It's checking."
4:30 - "The whole residence is completely involved. We're unable to get into it to see if there's anyone inside or not."
4:30 - Let Firestorm team see the fire is burning toward Circle Oaks.

4:40 - Have six buses standing by to pick up evacuees.
5:00 - "The power lines are starting to come down. We almost got decapitated by one."
5:00 - Fire backing down Westgate into a couple of structures.
5:10 - First fire victim, an infant dispatched.
5:10 - 2700 Block Soda Canyon: "The coming down the sides of the road. It's moving fast. Right now the

road is impassable."
5:10 - Beginning backburn on Windy Flats.
5:20 - "There's a house over there to save at 2700 Atlas Peak Road, but we don't have enough water. There's a fire around."
5:30 - "Don't throw anyone (firefighters) up Atlas Peak. They have maybe one shovel and a bucket."
5:30 - "If you have to, don't fight the fire, go to safety."
5:30 - "We're there by a first team about the 3000 block. We've got to hold the position for a moment."
5:30 - Emergency declared on police radio, major network for fire data only.
5:35 - Structures threatened on Silverado Trail and Soda Canyon.
5:40 - Based on Soda Canyon Road: "It's getting ready to blow up here."
5:40 - Atlas Peak clapped with fire trucks.
5:40 - "It looks like possibly trailers have started. There are people up here (near Milliken), vigilante types with rifles."
5:40 - wires blowing off pole at Soda Canyon store.
5:45 - Woman called friend, reported fire about 100 yards from house. She's home. She needs help and hang up.
5:50 - Send all evacuees to Napa High.
6:00 - Fire just jumped SR 121 and heading down into Woodens Valley.
6:10 - Two victims trapped in residence.
6:12 - Fire breaking over the top of hill at Circle Oaks.
6:10 - Fire coming over ridge about 30 yards from houses.
6:14 - Two reports of residents trapped in residences.
6:15 - Atlas Peak and Monticello: "Looks pretty bad."
6:15 - People at Circle S Ranch can't get out, fire is across road.
6:20 - 600 Monticello Road, subjects trapped.
6:20 - Fire moved over ridge from Soda Canyon, a few hot spots.
6:20 - High voltage power lines on fire 2700 Peak. Fire crews almost hit.
6:30 - A truck off the road in 3000 block Atlas Peak, supposedly exploded, unknown if anyone in it.
6:30 - Jackson residence by Woodens Valley school threatened.
6:30 - Pasadena reports fire getting close to SR 121 at Circle Oaks.
6:30 - Structure protection ordered again at 7779 Silverado Trail.
6:30 - Aerial observer reports "pretty hot" spot on eastern perimeter of fire, about 6.7 miles south of South Shore Ranch.
6:30 - Couple structures threatened in back of Soda Canyon firehouse.
6:30 - Pretty hot fire still burning near Circle S Ranch. "Don't let anyone up in this area."
6:30 - Things look pretty good on east side of Soda Canyon.
6:30 - All road blocks removed, except at Soda Canyon and Silverado, Atlas Peak and Westgate and Monticello and Valley.
6:40 - Fire camp will be at Veterans Home.
6:40 - Fire line at Monticello Road at the Oaks.
6:40 - Road help at 2700 Soda Canyon, fire coming at structure.
6:40 - Fire surrounding cabin at Soda Canyon. Suggested only fence and let cattle feed for themselves. Will if fire gets any closer.
6:40 - "It's not a good idea."
6:40 - Structure threatened at 2148 Soda Canyon Road.
6:40 - Firefighter injured, minor injuries to shoulder and wrist.
6:40 - Providing structure protection along Soda Canyon Road.
6:40 - Midnight - Again the threat of holsters mentioned.
6:40 - Heat

(Continued from Page 6)
ments to firefighters. Dark smoke blows across the road. The Richard O'Brien residence, nothing is left of a once large home but the stone foundation. Nothing. Small fire burn here and there, where rooms used to be. A Shimmer can, spoked, runs through the rubble.
Further up the road, firefighters see a rabbit standing about two feet from flames. As the fire lingers at the end, the rabbit, but does not leave. His hutch is covered with flame and, flames speculate the rabbit's family inside.
The rabbit will not leave until the fire is out and he can return home if he still has a home.

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 Onions Yellow, Large Size <div style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">4 \$1 4 lbs.</div>	 Carrots Snapping Fresh <div style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">3-lb. Bag 69¢</div>	 Grapefruit White, California Grown <div style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">5-lb. Bag 95¢</div>	 Honeydew Melons Sweet and Juicy <div style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">1 lb. 19¢</div>
 Lemons To Garnish Most Any Dish <div style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">each 14¢</div>			
 Nothing says it better than... FRESH ROSES All in beautiful assorted colors. Sensationally priced. Now at Safeway! <div style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">\$3.98 ONE DOZEN</div>			
 Bumble Bee Tuna, 6.5 Ounces <div style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">79¢</div>	 9-Lives Cat Food, 6 to 6.5 Ounces <div style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">3 for 89¢</div>	 Coca-Cola Tab, Fresca or Sprite, 6-12 Ounce Cans <div style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">\$1.49</div>	
 Nonfat Milk Lucerne, Galton <div style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">\$1.39</div>	 Peanut Butter Skippy, 18 Ounces <div style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">\$1.99</div>	 Yuban Coffee 2 Pounds <div style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">\$4.49</div>	
 Bel-air Pizza Supper or Dinner, 8 to 10 oz. Frozen (24.5 oz., \$2.99) <div style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">\$1.19</div>	 Pine-Sol Cleaner Liquid, 28 Ounces <div style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">\$1.99</div>		
 Kelllogg's Apple Jacks Golden Delight Cereal, 11 Ounces <div style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">\$1.39</div>			
 Waffles, Family Pack, Frozen, 16.5 oz. <div style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">89¢</div>			

Items and prices in this ad are available June 26, 1981, thru June 29, 1981, at all Safeway Stores based on the order of the copy.

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 Winner's Cup 80 Proof, 1.75 Liter <div style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">\$6.49</div>	 Old Crow 80 Proof, 1 Liter <div style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">\$5.99</div>	
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 Sebastiani 23 Cans <div style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">2 for \$6</div>	 Hamm's Beer 12 Pkts, 12 oz. Cans <div style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">\$3.19</div>	
 Miller Lite Beer 6-12 oz. Cans <div style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">\$1.99</div>	<div style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold;">BREAD WINNERS</div> <div style="font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold;">Homestyle Butter Top</div> <div style="font-size: 1.2em;">Bread, Mrs. Wright's, 1 1/2 lb. Loaf</div> <div style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">77¢</div>	
 Grain Belt Cereal Grain Bread, 1 1/2 lb. Loaf <div style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">99¢</div>	 English Muffins Mrs. Wright's, 6 ct. <div style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">59¢</div>	

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Volunteers Prepare Food, Find Families And Shelter

By NANCY STENSON
Register Staff Writer

Volunteer centers established at Napa High School, the Salvation Army and the Red Cross offices all report being flooded with calls offering assistance or inquiring about friends and relatives known to live in or have homes in the fire-ravaged area.

Workers started coordinating activities at about 7 p.m. at Napa High School, where volunteers manned phone message lines.

Calls were coming from Washington D.C., New York, and all across the country, reported volunteer Jeanne Beck, as well as from Bay Area people.

The high school is serving as the main communication area, acting as a clearing house for all inquiries about family members and friends.

People in the fire area are being urged to contact Napa High at 252-5311 to indicate they are all right and so this information can be passed on to concerned friends and relatives.

Volunteers from the Salvation Army worked for several hours preparing sandwiches and packing soft drinks and

donuts for those working at the fire lines.

Additionally, volunteers were setting up lists of those offering donations of furniture and clothing. Interested persons should call the Salvation Army at 226-8150 or stop by 590 Franklin Street, Napa.

The Red Cross at 575 Jefferson Street also distributed food supplied by local merchants to those on the fire lines.

It also is maintaining a hot line to accept inquiries about friends and relatives.

Local merchants have made donations of blankets and bedding to the Red Cross Center and a clothing drop has been established at a local market.

For information, contact the Red Cross at 226-9021 or stop by 575 Jefferson Street.

Local merchants have made donations of blankets and bedding to the Red Cross Center and a clothing drop has been established at a local market.

PG&E set up crews that worked through the night, surveying damage that left 2,300 customers in the Atlas Peak and Silverado Country Club area without power.

Extra crews were brought in from Lake County and Vallecito.



VOLUNTEERS FROM organizations such as the Red Cross and Salvation Army as well as groups such as the wives of firemen were busy into the night preparing sandwiches and packing donuts

and soft drinks for those on the fire lines. Food was donated by many local merchants, including restaurants and food stores. Shown above are a

couple of volunteers assisting thirsty firefighters taking a brief break. (Register photo by Dick Hildebrand)

According to a PG&E spokesman, once the area is declared safe the power company can determine where to restore poles and lines.

Additionally, transportation service for evacuees was established using Napa Valley Unified School District buses.

These buses ferried evacuees to many homes volunteering space and to local motels that donated rooms.

"Penas are being issued by local water companies urging people to curtail use of water to maintain pressure for firefighting."

According to a spokeswoman at the evacuation center at Napa High, messengers accepted for the Humane Society resulted in locating many temporary shelters for pets of people in the stricken area.

"At one time we placed about 300 horses, 100 cattle and 50 sheep," said a spokeswoman at the Napa High School evacuation center.

Additionally, Napa Fairgrounds had a system set up to accept homeless animals and livestock. It operated throughout the night.

Private individuals were calling in with offers of shelter on their land, as well offering stalls, trailers and other facilities.

No evacuees had to be housed at the Napa High Gymnasium since local persons and merchants were generous with offering lodging, said the spokeswoman.

"People were calling from as far off as San Francisco with offers of accommodations," she added.

Most of the trauma came not from people not having lodging, but from separated family members and concerned relatives.

"People were separated from kids, a lot of women with husbands missing were calling, frightened," she said.

Napa High quickly made preparations to serve a spaghetti dinner and offered the use of its showers and other facilities, including the swimming pool.

Napa Valley Unified School District Superintendent Robert Hansen, said school officials wanted to do everything possible to offer some comfort to the victims.

Local churches were mobilized quickly and ready with offers of help.

Judge Dies In Surgery

FRESNO (UPI) — Fifth District Court of Appeal Justice George Hopper died Monday night during open heart surgery. He was 55.

Hopper was admitted to St. Agnes hospital Monday morning and after a battery of tests doctors decided on immediate open heart surgery.

He died at 5:40 p.m. on the operating table, according to the coroner's office.

Hopper began private law practice in 1949 in the town of Orange Cove and was later appointed city attorney.

He was appointed to the Fresno Municipal Court bench in 1962 by former Gov. Edmund G. Brown and while sitting on the bench stirred some controversy by refusing to accept guilty pleas from alcoholics charged with public drunkenness because he felt they should be hospitalized rather than jailed.

He also made it a practice to read court documents and rulings in Spanish when defendants did not speak English because he said it gave them a better understanding of the court proceedings.

Hopper was appointed to the appellate court in 1979 and two years later was elected to a 12-year term on the bench.

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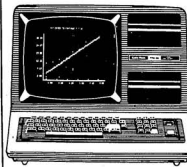
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AN EMERGENCY CENTER was established Monday afternoon at Napa High School where lines were posted to enable friends and family members to communicate with each other. A spokeswoman at the

emergency center said many calls came in from separated family members and frightened relatives wanting assurance that their friend or loved one was safe and well. (Photo by Dave Molloy)

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Grandnephew Pulls Peter Gasser From Fire

Tuesday, June 19, 1981

The NAPA REGISTER—11

Peter Gasser, one of Napa's richest and best-known residents, was saved from the clutches of a fiery death Monday by his grandnephew, 17-year-old Albert Keller.

Gasser, 75, was driving an old fire engine with a spray rig on his burning Monticello Road ranch when the rig stalled, the wind shifted and the vehicle and Gasser were engulfed in flames.

What happened next was described by Dan De Simoni, 31, one of two others besides Keller who helped pull Gasser to safety.

"Albert just ran right through the flames, which must have been five feet high, grabbed him off the truck and back through the flames," De Simoni said.

"I've never seen anything like that in my life—it looked like what you see on television," De Simoni said. "I was operating a fire engine that belongs to my ranch," Gasser recalled from his bed at Queen of the Valley Hospital, where he is recovering from second-degree burns over his arm, hips, leg and face.

"I stopped going uphill, the motor died and the wind changed. The first thing I knew, the fire truck and I were engulfed in the flames. These youngsters pulled me out of the truck and drug me to safety," Gasser said.

"If it wasn't for Albert and those other (two) young fellows, I don't think I would have made it. The good Lord is with me."

Keller, who will be a senior at Vintage High School in September, and who is currently president of the Napa chapter of Future Farmers of America, picked from his bed at Queen of the Valley Hospital.

where he is being treated for second degree burns on his arm and face, and for smoke inhalation.

"The only thing I want out of this is some visitors," said Keller, whose doctor, Carlos Edwards, predicted the teenager would be released from the hospital today.

Keller said he went to Gasser's ranch to help start the spray rig and to fight the fire. Gasser's parents, Paul and Jeannette, and his brother, Paul Jr., stayed behind to protect the house, while Albert, De Simoni and an equally unidentified youth joined Gasser at the spray rig.

"I don't said, 'You be careful,' and I said, 'I know how to take care of myself.'"

"We were just getting started to put the fire out when the house burst. The rig stalled and was wedged against the rock, scraping, and couldn't go forward or back. The fire was under the truck and the wind came," Keller recalled.

"I ran right into him and started pulling on him. I got him out, he fell in the grass and the other kids came and pulled him onto the road. I remember at him the whole time, but because I was mad, but because I wanted him to cooperate. He's tough," Keller said of his grandnephew.

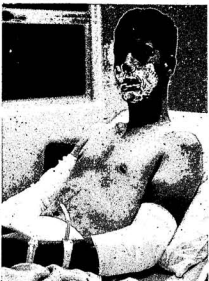
The heroic rescue didn't phase Keller much, as he credited the act largely to his parents, who he said taught him "right from wrong."

"If something needs to be done, I get in there and do it. I didn't want to look like a hero. My mom and dad always back me up on things, and I know right from wrong. I gave it a chance," Keller explained.

Even after being burned during the life-saving act, Keller stayed at the ranch trying to find the rest of his family, turning on sprinklers and trying to start fires.

"I kept my mind off the pain. It hurt, yeah, but I moved around. I was okay. I had other things to worry about besides my arm and face."

Once he found the rest of the



PETER GASSER (above) and grandnephew Albert Keller are seen in their hospital beds after Keller ran through flames to grab Gasser off his stalled fire truck and carry him to safety Monday afternoon. Gasser was fighting the fire as it raged through his Monticello Road ranch. (Register photos by Dick Heidebrand)

family, Keller was persuaded to go to the hospital, but he insisted on driving.

"He was very lucky," Keller's mother said by her son's hospital bed. "I was looking for us, worried about us, but when he found us, he came back with us."

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Dies In Crash

CUTLER (UPI) — A Cutler man was killed early Sunday when his car went off a rural road and crashed into two power poles.

The Highway Patrol said that Hernandez, 38, was killed instantly when his car hit the poles after he apparently fell asleep at the wheel.

No one else was in the car at the time of the accident.

Once he found the rest of the

family, Keller was persuaded to go to the hospital, but he insisted on driving.

"He was very lucky," Keller's mother said by her son's hospital bed. "I was looking for us, worried about us, but when he found us, he came back with us."

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Blaze Takes Toll Of Domestic, Wild Animals

By NANCY STENSON
Register Staff Writer

As fire blazed its path over the valley's eastern hills, it left in its wake the charred carcasses of cattle and other livestock and herds of horses traumatized by the flames and smoke.

A herd of horses was driven onto fairways of Silverado Country Club by Napa County Animal Control officer Frank Murphy after fire consumed their stable and stalls on Atlas Peak Road.

At the same time, four other county animal control officers were roaming through the Soda Canyon area and Atlas Peak Road searching for stray dogs, livestock and horses. No estimates were available yet on how many animals were lost in the fire, according to Richard Reilly, chief of the Napa County Animal Control unit.

Reilly said late Monday evening that he planned to keep two officers in the area in an all-night vigil.

The officers were cutting fences to free trapped livestock and rounding up horses and stray dogs.

"There were a lot of children, ducks and geese—many of them children's pets—up in the fire area. But there was just no way to get them," said Reilly.

Reilly said there were many livestock burned to death in the fire, but a count would not be available for several hours. He added that it would be impossible to identify all the animals.

Of particular concern, said Reilly, are the horses. They tend to panic in the smoke. "You can't just lead the horses through the smoke, you have to put blinders on or wrap them," he said.

On the other hand, dogs will run and hide. "I don't know how many dogs got away," said Reilly. "Many owners just let the dogs run on their property at will."

As Reilly was talking, Larry Cline of 3800 Atlas Peak Road walked in to the animal control shelter at approximately 10:30 p.m.

Fortunately, Charlie had been rescued by an animal control officer and became ecstatic when his owner came to retrieve him.

Cline said he counts himself doubly lucky

since his house survived the inferno that cut its way over Atlas Peak Road, while selectively gutting structures in its path.

"I was really worried about Charlie and the house," said Cline.

In addition to other activities, the animal control officers made available visits of tranquility to owners to calm frightened horses.

Cheryl Hentzinger, a Napa County Animal Control employee, said that much of the time she reached places where animals had been reported found, only to discover they had run off again.

Reilly said that it was important to secure the animals or livestock before making the call.

"Secure the animal, then call the animal control unit," he said.

The department compiled lengthy lists of names of people offering temporary quarters for animals whose pastures or stalls had been burned.

The department was gearing up for a busy day today as people began to search for their livestock and dogs.

An unidentified girl in her teens who loitered on an Atlas Peak Road burst into tears at the animal shelter when she learned her dog had not been found, according to the dispatcher.

One horse was brought into the shelter and released within only a few hours, according to a shelter employee.

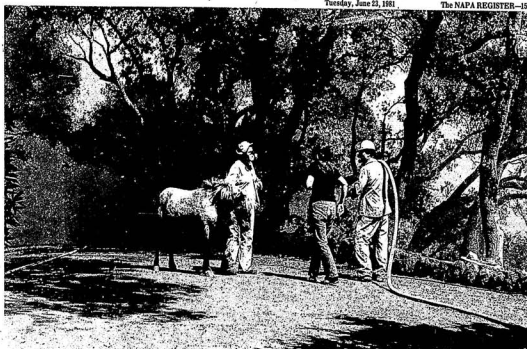
Several valley veterinarians volunteered their services, including Dr. Jim LaRham and Dr. Patty LaRham of the Napa Valley Veterinarian Hospital, Inc.

Jim LaRham was traveling the Soda Canyon area, prepared to sedate horses and to help any injured animals.

The couple also were offering to buy animals of any families who had to evacuate their homes.

A mounted posse was formed to help evacuate the livestock, but reportedly never were called in to help.

Those needing assistance with animals or livestock, or wanting to report any missing dogs, horses or cattle should call Napa County Animal Control Shelter at 263-4381 or stop by the shelter at 68 West Innis Avenue, Napa.



THE SMOKE and flames of the fire first livestock and other animals into a frenzy as it raced over the eastern mountains. Most sensitive were the horses, known to be squamous even under such calm circumstances. Napa County Animal Control officers and local veterinarians combed the disaster area with visits of tranquility for owners wanting to calm their horses or load them onto trailers. Pictured above is one of the firefighters, leading a frightened pony away from the disaster area. (Register photo by Dick Hildebrand)

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DUBLIN	7121 DUBLIN BLVD.	829-1800	PLEASANT HILL	3278 CONTRA COSTA BLVD.	937-0264
DAVIS	10120 PITT ST.	752-7700	PLEASANTON	2684 WASHINGTON ST.	462-7650
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LOW AS	429 MONTE AV.	797-4510	SAN LEANDRO	2701 WASHINGTON AVE.	944-0712
HAYWARD	345 WEST "A" ST.	765-3770	STOCKTON	1540 PACIFIC AVE.	351-0022
LAFAYETTE	2400 MC CORMICK RD.	355-2518	STOCKTON	48 E. CHARTER WAY	526-2683
LODI	4057 N. CHURCH RD.	368-8851	TRACY	1120 WHITE VISTA AVE.	467-3351
MANTEC	8125 YOGATE AVE.	224-8991	VACAVILLE	2000 CONDOMA BLVD.	525-5001
MARTINEZ	3453 PACIFIC BLVD.	224-4903	VALLEJO		
NAPA	1178 SILVERADO TRAIL	255-2535			

Shipyard Command Change

MARE ISLAND — Capt. Roger B. Horne, commanding officer of the Engineering Duty Officer School at Mare Island Naval Shipyard, took command of the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard Saturday.

A longtime resident of Vallejo, Calif., Horne has served the Mare Island shipyard since 1974 as repair officer and production officer.

Horne and his wife, Blanche, have two daughters, Connie and Glenda, who reside in the Bay Area.

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Fire-Destroyed Home Locations Pinpointed

Attention, Fire Victims

If your home was destroyed but was not represented on this map, please contact Doug Ernst at The Register, 226-3711, or 224-9154 after 5 p.m. Your assistance in compiling a complete list of victims is greatly appreciated.

The following is a partial list of homes destroyed in Monday's fire. Addresses, names, acreage and assessed property value were provided by the county assessor, sheriff's department, and other sources, and are not a complete list of all homes lost. The following numbers correspond to numbers on the map.

Assessed property values are, due to Proposition 13, not an accurate measure of actual market value. In many cases property is worth much more on the market than its assessed value, shown below.

SODA CANYON

Home Number	OWNER/RESIDENT	ACRES	LAND	IMPROVEMENTS	TOTAL
(1) 2882	SCHREIBER, Joseph & Mary	8.39	\$15,920	\$4,125	\$21,052
(2) 2915	SAVAGE, Edmund	5.74	\$8,715	\$15,852	\$24,567
(3) 3082	SAVAGE, Paula	2.66			
(4) 3100	ENDERSBY, Victor	2.75	16,772	11,742	28,514
(5) 3102	BRADLEY, John & Gayle	10	7,652	13,112	20,764
(6) 3110	UNKNOWN				
(7) 3120	UNKNOWN				
(8) 3149	TOWNSEND, June	40.2	19,140	5,164	24,304
(9) 3298	BESTON, Fletcher	4.75	11,063	27,966	40,849
(10) 3299	SNYDER, Henry & Rebecca	27.95	40,612	14,280	74,892
(11) 3460	SUMMERS, S.G. Jr.	30	10,128	10,128	20,256
(12) 3500	STANTON, John & Carmen	23.15	11,940	21,056	30,016
(13) 3510	DAVIDSON, Harold & Diane	30	21,306	119,070	140,376
(14) 3700	HURWICH, Robert				

ATLAS PEAK

Home Number	OWNER/RESIDENT	ACRES	LAND	IMPROVEMENTS	TOTAL
(15) 1881	CROSSBY, Tucker & Debbie (residents)				
	POUL, Janet (owner)				
(16) 1885	WRIGHT, Patrick (resident)				
	POUL, Janet (owner)				
(17) 1889	POUL, Janet				
(18) 2197	RADICK, Greg				
(19) 2197	UNKNOWN				
(20) 2197	UNKNOWN				
(21) 2192	UNKNOWN				
(22) 2220	GRINNELL, Sheldon & Maureen	3.07	\$40,532	\$48,100	\$88,632
(23) 2231	TIBBELL, Deborah (owner)				
	STEVENS, Robert (resident)	13.15	91,800	112,500	204,300
(24) 2232	BERENSON, Maudie & Raymond	11.82	45,040	50,672	95,712
(25) 2261	MYNERS, Peter (owner)				
	TRUDELL, Brent (resident)	6.7	81,600	81,600	163,200
(26) 2370	UNKNOWN				
(27) 2385	ANDERSON, Norman & Jane	14.19	39,412	58,104	97,516
(28) 2390	EMERY, Ryan				
(29) 2540	LEESMA, Marjorie & Barbara	11	50,672	28,192	78,864
(30) 2600	NAPA VALLEY COOP				
(31) 2601	WHITE, Anthony & Chole	6.54	32,780	41,220	75,100
(32) 2670	ACHILLE, Albertus & Elizabeth	3.2	28,152	87,544	115,696
(33) 2677	WALKER, Robert & Carolyn	4.81	27,600	74,500	102,100
(34) 2682	HEIN, Paul				
(35) 2747	BIEVER, Philip	10.34	26,220	50,672	76,892
(36) 2797	O'BRIEN, Richard & Lyle	5.5	23,840	23,520	47,360
(37) 3055-A	MARCH, Jim				
(38) 3064	UNKNOWN				
(39) 3183	CAUL, David & Karen	14	27,584	16,780	44,364
(40) 3232	UNKNOWN				
(41) 3355	PEIGH, Carl & Carol (owners)				
	FINX, Steven; PEIGH, Carol (residents)	39.27	63,928	1,824	65,752

Totals—41 homes

310.18 857,423 1,620,701 1,888,124

Devastating County Fire Is Contained

Control Predicted Thursday

By L. PIERCE CARSON

Register Staff Writer
Napa County's first major wildfire in nearly two decades has been contained. California Department of Forestry officials predict the devastating 25,000-acre fire will be under control Thursday and all stop-go completed by week's end.

Fire near Wayne Main conservatively placed fire containment at 90 percent, adding the rampaging Monday wildfire was 90 percent controlled by mid-morning today.

It is anticipated that about 50 percent of the crews of 1,000 firefighters will return to their home stations and camps by midnight or early Thursday morning. Pending earlier estimates, local officials now place losses associated with Monday's conflagration at about \$30 million.

The fire was deliberately set around 1:30 Monday afternoon, Arson investigators found two "lived incendiary devices" at ignition points along Silverado Trail.

Fanned by winds gusting between 30 and 35 miles per hour, the firestorm burned homes, outbuildings, livestock, pets, game, timber and brush in a wide swath between Lake Hennessy and Wild Horse Valley. About 1,000 acres of Wild Horse Valley state was burned before firefighters halted the southeast progress of the blaze.

(Continued on Page 2)



MORE THAN A DOZEN homes were burned to the ground at the base of Atlas Peak Road across from Silverado County Club. As this aerial photo

shows, the fire swept down the hillside as far as Atlas Peak, burning almost everything in its path. Today the vast side of the road is a blackened no-man's

land, while the state side harbors lush fairways, private tennis courts and luxury homes. Altogether, 31 homes were destroyed on Atlas Peak, where the

worst property damage occurred. Revised estimates put the damage total at \$30 million, making the fire the

county's most costly disaster. (Register photo by Bob McKenzie, courtesy Bridgeway Paving Service)

Pair Of Arson Devices Found

By SEAN SILVERTHORNE

Register Staff Writer
Arson investigators have found a pair of "lived incendiary devices" believed responsible for igniting two of four fires that combined Monday to torch some 25,000 acres and 60 structures across Napa County.

California Department of Forestry investigators Drew told the Bagliettins that the fire-setting mechanisms

were found at two spots along Silverado Trail Tuesday.

Details about the devices, however, were kept secret.

The CDF has not found devices that would be responsible for two other fires in the Soda Canyon area, Drew said. "But because of the close proximity with the other two, we feel reasonably certain these are arson fires too."

It also learned the arsonist may be

the same one responsible for many fires in the valley last year.

The county experienced a more than a 300 percent increase in arson fires last year, which arson experts have said may be attributable to the design of the county in 1981. Napa city had twice that.

It also believed Monday's arsonist may have tried to set other fires earlier this year.

A suspect was questioned Monday

night, but was released.

"We have no hard suspects at this time," Drew said. "The fires are still under investigation."

Drew said he and investigators Dale Bruesler and Pat Bowden will remain on the case.

Drew said as well as the first group of firefighters on the scene of one of Monday's blazes, and some 25 acres were already eaten by flame.

"It was really moving, being pushed by the wind," Drew said.

Napa County is one of the top five for arson break fires, according to the state. Napa, Sonoma and Santa Clara are listed as the three worst.

The number of arson-sparked brush fires throughout the state has increased dramatically, the last two years, a report released Tuesday shows.

More than 10,000 brush fires have been set in each of the last two years, up more than 40 percent from earlier years, according to the report.

Especially troublesome this year are

(Continued on Page 13)

The Napa Register

and THE NAPA JOURNAL

119th Year No. 255 Wednesday, June 24, 1981 25 Cents

Napa Council Acts On Fireworks Ban

First steps toward banning the sale and use of fireworks in Napa city this year were taken by the city council Tuesday in the charged wake of a 25,000-acre fire that has ravaged the county.

A special session of the council to adopt an emergency ordinance instituting the one-year ban will be held Thursday at 6:30 a.m. in the council chambers.

The ban would seriously hamper fundraising efforts of a variety of nonprofit organizations which had planned to set up shop Sunday and which have already paid for a state license, insurance and purchased the merchandise.

The council, on a 4-0 vote with Alan Young absent, directed staff to prepare

an ordinance to be voted on Thursday morning.

The vote follows a strong recommendation favoring the ban from Fire Chief Milton Ochs but an equally forceful plea against the prohibition by Fire Prevention Capt. Ken Grimm.

"In view of the extremely critical fire conditions, I can do nothing less than recommend a total ban on the sale and use of all fireworks this year," Ochs told the council. Fire danger is at its highest point in 13 years, he observed.

Grimm, however, said the proposed ban is coming too late to be fair to fireworks sellers.

(Continued on Page 12)

Palm Reader Given Napa Council Okay

The Napa City Council Tuesday told Sister Laura Williams she may set up a palm and card reading business in Napa, despite the objections of Council and Alan Austin.

Austin had hoped to block Williams' application to establish a parlor at 301 River St., saying to let the occult arts into the city would breed similar and more objectionable businesses, such as massage parlors.

But, with Alan Young absent, the council voted 3-1 to approve the business license.

A public hearing on the application generated only one voice of opposition, Mayor Faylla Moore noted in voting to approve the business.

Staff had recommended approval of the business, finding all requirements had been met, but Austin pushed to adopt an

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Tired Crews Try To Relax After Battle

By NANCY STENSON

Register Staff Writer
YOUNTVILLE — Janet Ford, a firefighter with the California Conservation Corps, examined her skin for any blotches that might indicate the onslaught of poison oak as she rested Tuesday evening at California Division of



THIS DEER survived the fire that swept over Monticello Road Monday, but it still doesn't have his sense of

equilibrium back. The area where he used to lounge is now charred. He was seen jumping a guard rail on Monticello

Road during the day Tuesday in search of shelter and food. (Register photo by Al Francis)

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'Local Emergency' Declared

Officials Work To Help Fire Victims

Following an air inspection of Napa County's devastating arson wildfire last Tuesday afternoon, local and state officials joined hands in an attempt to ease the financial burden facing burned-out homeowners hoping to rebuild.

Head of Supervisors Chairman Harold Moskowitz said the board would fire off a letter to the Office of Emergency Services, requesting "a local emergency" and asking Gov. Edmund G. Brown Jr. for such financial assistance from the federal government's Small Business Administration.

Should SBA grant the state's request,

local fire victims could be eligible for building loans up to \$85,000 at an interest rate of percent.

Sen. Jim Nielsen, R-Woodland, told reporters "statewide, we're anticipating a bad (fire) season. It's unusual to have a bad fire like this one so early in the season."

"We'd like to alert people to immediately assess their insurance capabilities and the fire protection efforts they've made around their individual homes."

"Clearances (around homes) are the important thing," added Napa County

Fire Warden Byron Carriglia.

"Also, arson is one of the major causes of wildfire. I urge people to report anything suspicious to our office. We need all the help we can get with arson."

Carriglia echoed Nielsen's sentiments about the unusually dry, hot weather and way below average moisture content in brush and timber. "Unless we get a break in the weather it's going to be a bad season," he added.

Nielsen, Moskowitz and Carriglia flew over the blackened 25,000-acre late Tuesday afternoon. They were joined by Assemblyman Don Sebastiani, R-Sonoma;

Sen. William Campbell, R-Whittier; and Sen. Barry Keene, D-San Jose. Also flying over the area were Supervisor Bill Carey, County Administrator Albert Hysberg and a representative of the governor's office.

Joining the group as well was Alan Cunningham, director of the state's Office of Emergency Services.

Cunningham noted that it is important that people who lost homes in the raging Monday fire let county officials know of the loss. He said a name, address and cer-

(Continued on Page 12)

THE VERDICT:

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believed in him shall not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only Son.

This is the verdict. Light has come into the world, but man loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that his deeds will be exposed. But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be plainly seen that what he has done has been done through God."

John 3:16-21

The Lightkeepers — a Christian Effort
P.O. Box 4230, Napa, CA 94558

Rich In Friends, Acquaintances

Victims Sift Ashes For Memories



BUT FOR the pool and the freestanding chimney, there is little to suggest that until Monday this was the Achilles family home on Atlas Peak Road. For some people, the trauma as-

sociated with fire disaster makes the decision of whether to rebuild an agonizing one. (Register photo by Al Francis)

By KEVIN COUNTEY

Register Staff Writer

As flames began snuffing up after Monday's devastating fire, residents of nearly 40 homes were left with the depressing chore of sifting ashes.

The increasing force of the wind-whipped blast reduced two-story houses to piles of rubble less than a foot high. Possessions of a lifetime, from family heirlooms to the latest videotape machines, today have about as much identity and value as a crumpled slice of burned toast.

After surveying the still-swarm ruins of his rented Atlas Peak home Tuesday afternoon, Paul Hele concluded that \$50,000 worth of personal possessions, including a sports car, truck and \$8,000 stereo system, were now mostly black smoke.

"The shop with all my spare parts is flat. The shed is flat. The house is flat," observed Hele. "There's nothing here but scrap metal."

With the help of a friend, he tried prying open what had once been a white-sight pool box containing \$2,000 worth of precision automotive equipment.

Anything electrical had been cooked to oblivion, he soon discovered. Even the high-strength wrenches were now valueless. "They've been so hot they've lost their temper," he said in disgust.

Hele expects insurance to pay only \$20,000 of his \$50,000 loss. As of yesterday he had only one pair of pants and a shirt to call his own. "What I own is what you see," he said in an attempt at humor.

Although seldom deprived of their material possessions, most fire victims have discovered themselves rich in friends and acquaintances. The Red Cross was ready to place evacuees in the homes of volunteer strangers, but found that there were no takers. Nearly every victim, it seemed, had made his own arrangements.

Former hill dwellers are now living in digs as diverse as condominiums at Silverado County Club, a houseboat on the Napa River, the homes of a Jane and the rustic comforts of a sleeping bag. A large number of residents joined the refugee parade even though they didn't

lose their homes. The fire cut electricity to their area, which also meant the loss of water. They have flocked into towns, staying at motels and with friends until utility services are restored.

Only a rare few of the burn-out victims are willing to commit themselves to a specific plan for the future.

"It was kind of numbed by it," admitted 31-year-old Victor Enderby, who was only two weeks away from completing a new home that he had begun building two years ago at 100 Soda Canyon Road. Today that home is a charred spot of the hillside. "I'm still trying to think of what I'll do next," he said.

"We don't know what we're going to do," echoed Marlene Benders, as she tore the ruins of her valley-view home on Atlas Peak Road. "It's monumental just thinking of it."

The little things have to be tackled first, she noted. "My husband hasn't yet bought a shower." The night before she had acquired a new tooth brush.

When Joe Zustin shed tears Monday afternoon, it was not for himself but for his mother whose \$100,000 home burned before his eyes. While his parents stayed in the Petaluma home, Zustin returned Tuesday to recover what artifacts he could find.

His wife Candis still displayed a single cup and saucer recovered from the charred dishwasher. Zustin's mother, Lu O'Brien, had been emptying the dishwasher when the fire forced her to flee her Atlas Peak home. The rest of the dishes were reduced to dust.

Zustin recalled arriving at his mother's front door as the fire extended the house's demise. "I was in the front door and I saw the fire. I was in the front door and I saw the fire. I was in the front door and I saw the fire."

Finding no one, he tried to fight the fire. He could have won, he feels, if only there had been water pressure to operate the hose. Instead, what started as smoldering smoke in the attic quickly consumed the entire structure as he stood helplessly by.

Zustin said he made one final dash inside to recover a memento of whatever he could find. He carried to safety a dozen of his mother's dresses and a piece of crystal

that once belonged to his great-grandmother in Germany. "I always liked it. That's the first thing I grabbed," said Zustin.

A tragedy is a tragedy, the Zustins noted, but some details make the situation less of the worst. They recalled how the O'Briens had taken delivery of a new freezer and living room furniture, all within the past week. These objects merely fueled the flames.

Before departing for Petaluma, Zustin vowed to make a final search for his mother's missing cats. "I haven't seen the cats yet. We'll leave water for them," he said.

Two months short of his 90th birthday, Enderby tried to be philosophical about his Soda Springs loss. "I can't believe the variety of experiences I've been through."

In another two weeks, he said, his new house been finished. Enderby would have lost the accumulated possessions of a lifetime. As it was, his house contained only his typewriter and a few odds and ends.

The loss that pains him most is the disappearance of four of his five cats. "Now living in Napa with his daughter, Enderby plans to keep checking to see if they turn up."

From a financial point of view, Enderby figures to break even. His unfinished house was insured. But now he has two years of labor to make it.

As a renter at 608 Silverado Trail, Rudy Gaydon didn't have any insurance on his furniture and other personal possessions—"not a lick."

He escaped the on-rushing fire with his two dogs, his motorcycle and his pickup and now plans to camp out at night until he can find another ranch rental. "I'm not back enough that I'm not going to worry," he said.

"I asked the realtor if I could get my burning deposit back," Gayton related. "They said sure. I left it spoken."

It was his house, incidentally, that was the big front photo in Tuesday's Napa Register. It exaggerated indignation, he noted, that the Register labeled the burning building a home. That was his

(Continued on Page 7)

PUBLIC NOTICE CALIFORNIA COMPREHENSIVE ANNUAL SOCIAL SERVICES PROGRAM PLAN July 1, 1981 - June 30, 1982

The Final Comprehensive Annual Social Services Program Plan (CASPP) has been published and is now available to the public. Copies of the plan will be available for public review throughout the program year at all County Departments of Social Services and main branches of County Libraries. Additional copies of the Plan are available without charge by writing or calling:

Department of Social Services
Social Services Planning Branch
744 P Street, Mail Station 5-135
Sacramento, California 95814

Telephone Toll Free: 800/952-5233
Telephone for the Deaf: 800/952-8949

Public comments received between April 1 and May 15, 1981 will remain on file and may be reviewed at the above address.

MAJOR CHANGES FROM PROPOSED PLAN

The final Plan differs from the proposed Plan published April 1, 1981, in the following ways:

- Clarification that availability of services subject to appropriation of funds.
- Clarification of programs that include services funded and other community resources.
- Following the optional program descriptions, the eligibility categories served by county have been included.
- Mode County was incorrectly listed as providing a service funded resource that is

not offered in Program No. 17, Housing Referral Services.

- Service funded resources were removed from Program No. 18, Legal Referral Services as counties providing this program do not offer any service funded resources.
- Service funded resources 2 and 3 were added to San Francisco County's Optional Program No. 22, Services to Disabled Individuals.
- Los Angeles County inadvertently omitted Optional Program No. 22, Services to Disabled Individuals.
- Funding tables were updated.
- In-Home Supportive Services allocation figures have been updated.
- Prediction of Program Utilization charts have been corrected/updated.
- Clarification that SSI/SSP payment standards subject to cost-of-living amount approved by Legislature.
- A list of Volunteer Coordinators at the county level has been added.
- A family planning fee schedule has been added.

Persons wishing to apply for Title XX social services should contact their county welfare departments for information on how and where to apply.

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IF THIS WERE a war zone, the destruction on the ground couldn't be more complete. For the moment the signs of human habitation are few and far between. Most observers

predict that a year from now this Atlas Peak scene will be far cheerier as fire victims rebuild. (Register photo by Bob McKenzie)

☆ *Few Have Specific Plans*

(Continued from Page 6)

house, not a harm, he said.

The disaster could have been a lot worse for Linda Green who had not yet moved onto her recently rented ranch at 2004 Atlas Peak Road with her three-year-old son and the seven horses that she and her roommate own.

The arrived at their new home Monday only to see the back side erupt in flames. "There were trees starting to fall down. Electrical lines were falling down. The smoke was thick. We went down the road and watched it burn. And we cried. It was our dream house," she said.

"I was really depressed yesterday and threw up," said Green, who despairs of finding another ranch to rent for her

horses. "With all these homes burned down to the ground, there won't be rentals enough to go around," she lamented.

For the time being Green and her girlfriend are living with Green's mother, Anne, who has decided to offer help to any other fire victim needing laundry service.

As the owner of Ray's Maytag, she will be setting aside four washers expressly for the use of people who don't have homes.

Ron Dahlgren reported that but for his willingness to run a roadblock Monday his father's Atlas Peak home likely would have been lost to the blaze.

Law enforcement officers tried to keep him away from his father's place, he recounted, since only people with Atlas Peak Road identification were being let

up the hill. His father, Ray Dahlgren, was away in Texas, so he figured it was up to him to save his father's house.

He and some friends ran the roadblock in time to beat the fire to the house. "We lost the outbuildings and we burned a little paint on the side of the house, but we

"We had nine cars there which we had to move about six times each. We moved them from spot to spot as the fire moved around the house," said Dahlgren.

Now another relative is staying in the house, pending the father's return from Texas. Since PG&E lines are down, the Dahlgrens are using portable generators for electricity and to run the water pumps.

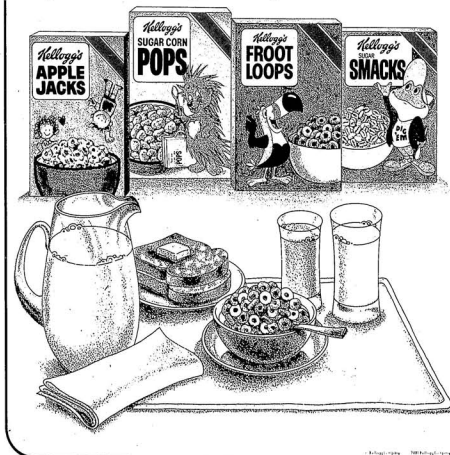


AFTER A FIRE has done its work, all that remains of a house are some charred pieces of metal that were once stoves, refrigerators, and washing machines. Everything else

is reduced to dust, making it hard to imagine the comfortable life that was once lived here. This photo was taken on Atlas Peak Road (Bendishophoto by J. E. Searns).

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A cartoon illustration of a Kellogg's Apple Jacks cereal box. The box is labeled "Kellogg's APPLE JACKS" and features a character that looks like a piece of cereal with a face, arms, and legs, jumping out of the top. The box is filled with cereal, and there are some small figures of people at the bottom left.

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36000 106914

Save 15¢
on your next purchase of
Kellogg's Sugar Smacks®

Coupon expires September 30, 1981.