

Quick Action By Firemen Checks Victoria Blaze

VICTORIA (CP)—Damage was estimated at \$50,000 in an explosive fire which hit pier 3 of the Victoria Machinery Depot shipbuilding yard in the outer harbor here Tuesday night.

Some 100 firemen using fire boats brought the blaze under control after 90 minutes. The flames were first spotted at 5 p.m.

A company spokesman said fire walls and sprinkler systems saved valuable naval electrical equipment. He described as "fantastic" reports that damage could go as high as \$2,000,000.

He said it would be impossible to estimate the exact amount of damage for several days.

City fire chief Frank Briers said it was the "worst fire to fight Victoria ever had."

"If there had been any wind, that fire would be up town now," he said.

There was no official explanation of the cause but one report said the blaze may have been started by an electrical heater in a first aid room.

Company and naval officials said the 400-foot section of the 800-foot pier where the fire was centered

W. Ross Macdonald Solicitor-General

OTTAWA (CP)—W. Ross Macdonald, government leader in the Senate, has been appointed solicitor-general, it was learned today.

The 62-year-old parliamentarian, who took over the Senate appointment this session after a term as Speaker of the House of Commons, has been a member of the cabinet without portfolio by virtue of his position as government leader in the upper house. He will continue to hold that appointment.

The solicitor-general's portfolio has been held by Ralph Campney, 59, since Oct. 15, 1952. Mr. Campney since has been appointed associate defence minister.

Quick action by firemen, aided by naval firefighters, civilian volunteers and fire boats, checked the blaze before it could spread to a nearby destroyer-escort vessel under construction and a number of highly explosive oxy-acetylene tanks.

The flames were fed by exploding drums of paint and oil.

A group of firemen narrowly escaped injury when a wall they were working near was knocked over by a stream of water from one of the fireboats.

It was the second waterfront fire here in three months. The big tug Salvage King burned and sank at her berth Oct. 19 with damage estimated at \$150,000.

Fiery Ball Over New York State Said Meteorite

SYRACUSE, N.Y. (AP)—Hundreds of persons in northern New York state reported seeing a fiery ball in the sky early today, and the control tower at Hancock field here said the object was a meteorite.

First reports of the sightings touched off a search for a crashed airplane in the Mohawk river area near Troy and the Rome-Utica area.

A jet pilot and a motorist each reported seeing the ball of flame crash to the ground north of Cleveland, in Oswego county.

A meteorite is a solid mass which enters the earth's atmosphere and falls to earth, as opposed to meteors, which do not reach the ground.

Peter Lafen, on duty at the civil aeronautics administration tower at Hancock field, told a reporter: "It was falling northwest of the tower, going down at a 45-degree angle. We have no idea how big it was, because we can't determine how far away it was."

The tower, police and fire stations and newspaper and radio switchboards were swamped with calls from workers going to their jobs who had seen the object and thought it was a burning plane.

Authorities established the time

Aid For Family Living In Tent

BROOKVILLE (CP)—Residents of this town today went to the aid of a man and wife and two small children who have been living in a small tent on the town's northern outskirts.

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Mitchell and their sons, aged 4 and 5, have survived a week of sub-zero weather after a winter-long stay in their tent.

Today offers of homes, apartments and other accommodation, were received by relief officer William Hollister, who stated he had arranged for a house for them in town.

Mitchell, a railroader, said he had been unable to find a place to live despite his ability to pay a fair rental.

He was reluctant to talk about his plight.

of the sightings at about 7 a.m. EST.

Residents of Rochester, Lockport, Danville, Watertown, Malone, Rome, Troy and Syracuse were among those reported seeing the object.

The black cap is donned by judges in Britain when sentence of death is to be delivered.

RCAF Awaits Result Elba Investigation On Comet Jet Crash

PORTO AZZURRO, Elba (AP)—Can the wreckage of a Comet jet airliner be raised from 400 feet of water to help solve the mystery of its crash?

Experts of two countries studied that possibility here today. Meanwhile, British Overseas Airways Corporation Comets were rounded throughout the world pending a "minute" investigation into why the jetliner exploded in mid-air 10 miles south of here Sunday and plunged into the sea, killing 35 passengers and crew.

BOCA called the grounding order "a measure of prudence." And while the action was not ordered by the ministry of transport and civil aviation, France and Canada, where Comets also are operated were informed of the action.

The two Comet jets in Canada are owned by the RCAF, Canadian Pacific Airlines has three Later-model Comets on order. It was about to take delivery of one of the current series last year when it crashed in Pakistan, killing the Canadian crew.

To Stay I Service

The RCAF said its two Comets will remain in service pending

word from the Elba investigation. It added that it would not continue to operate the speedy four-jet craft if there is the slightest hint that they are unsafe.

The RCAF took delivery of its two Comets late last spring. Since then the two planes have each flown 225,000 miles, the equivalent of nine flights around the world. Each plane has logged more than 500 hours.

RCAF officers said nothing wrong has been found with either plane outside normal, minor repairs.

Separate British and Italian investigation commissions today examined fragments of the plane found floating in the sea.

Twenty bodies are believed trapped in the sunken wreckage. Due to the great depth, problems of raising the wreck are involved.

Ask Further Study

The island medical examiner, after studying the 15 bodies recovered from the sea Sunday, blamed death on concussion from the mid-air blast. However, the British and Italian commissions of investigation have asked further studies, hoping to learn the exact extent of the explosion which preceded the crash.

Pilot of the plane was Capt. Alan Gibson, married to Elizabeth Archibald, whose parents, Mr. and Mrs. E. E. Archibald, operate a fishing camp at Timagami, Ont.

Bolover stone, limestone found in Derbyshire, was selected for construction of the British Houses of Parliament.

Guatemala Antigua, a town in Guatemala, Central America, has been destroyed seven times by earthquakes.

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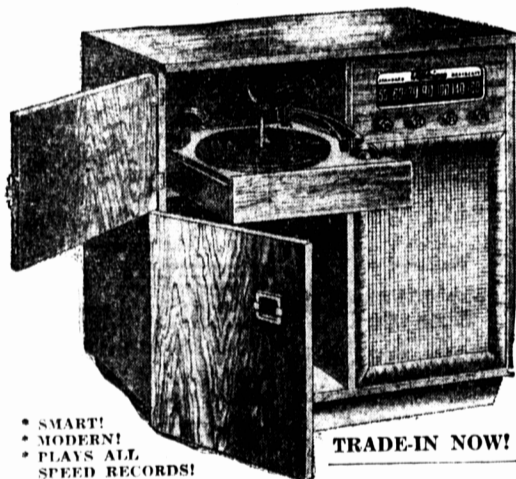
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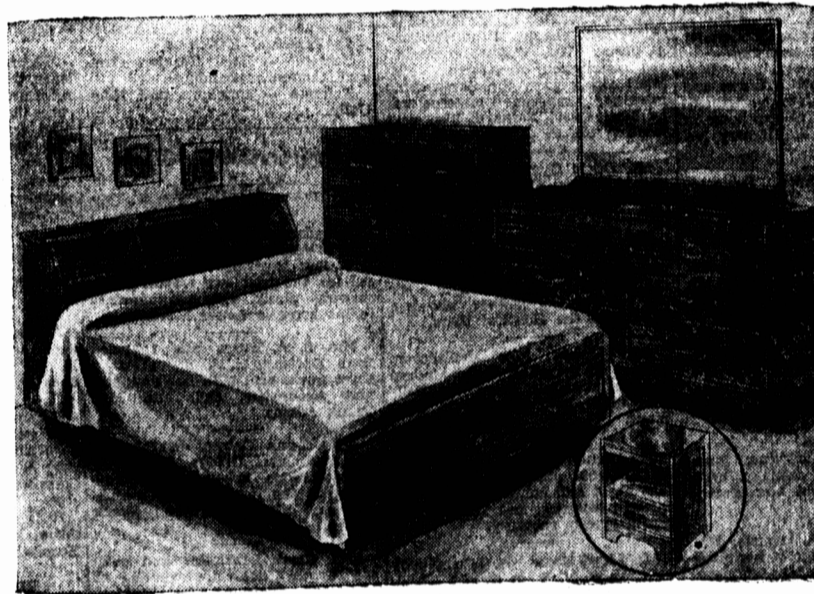


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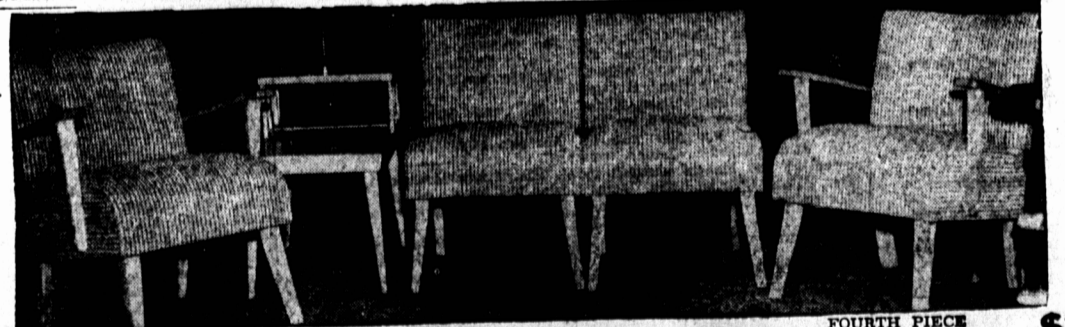
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