

'They Never Had a Chance'

6 PERISH IN FIRE

Cigaret Starts Night Blaze in \$60,000 Home

BY ROBERT KISTLER
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A fire started by a smoldering cigarette dropped at a party the night before raged through an expensive Chevy Chase Canyon home early today, killing a Glendale family of four and two visiting neighbor children.

"They never had a chance," said Fire Capt. Charles Noon of the two adults and four children who perished in the quick-moving blaze.

"Most likely," Noon said, "they were all dead before we even got the call."

The dead, all found in three upstairs bedrooms of the \$60,000 hillside home at 1440 Thurlene Road, were identified as:

—Stanley W. Myers, a 37-year-old Lockheed engineer. His body was found on the floor one step from the bed in the master bedroom.

—Myer's wife, Sandy, 34, who had managed to stumble only a few steps toward the adjoining bathroom before being felled by smoke. The family's dog, Tippy, died at her side.

—Colleen Bondi, 3-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jay Bondi, next-door neighbors of the Myers, found in the Myers' bed, where she had fallen asleep during the party the night before.

—Danny Myers, 8, found in his bed in the bedroom farthest down the hall from the stairs up which the flames and noxious fumes had swept.

—Matthew Bondi, 5, found still wrapped in his sleeping bag at the side of Danny's bed. He, like his older friend, had not been touched by flames, firemen said, but had died in his sleep from smoke inhalation.

—Lisa (Deedee) Myers, 7, found badly burned in her bed. Lisa's room, like that of her parents, is located immediately at the top of the stairs leading from a downstairs hallway.

Mrs. Linda Sorensen, a friend of both families, said a quiet party had been held at the Myers home Wednesday night to celebrate the news that Mrs. Myers, a registered nurse, had passed a state examination for her medical practitioner's license.

Mrs. Sorensen and her husband, Tom, had left the small gathering of close-knit friends shortly after 9 p.m. Carole and Jay Bondi, who had their two children with them, had stayed until about 12:30 a.m.

"Rather than take their two children home in the cool night air, the Bondie put them to bed next door," Mrs. Sorensen said.

The adults in the two families retired, unaware that ashes from a cigarette dropped in the soft living room chair were quietly preparing to flash to life.

Said Fire Capt. Noon:

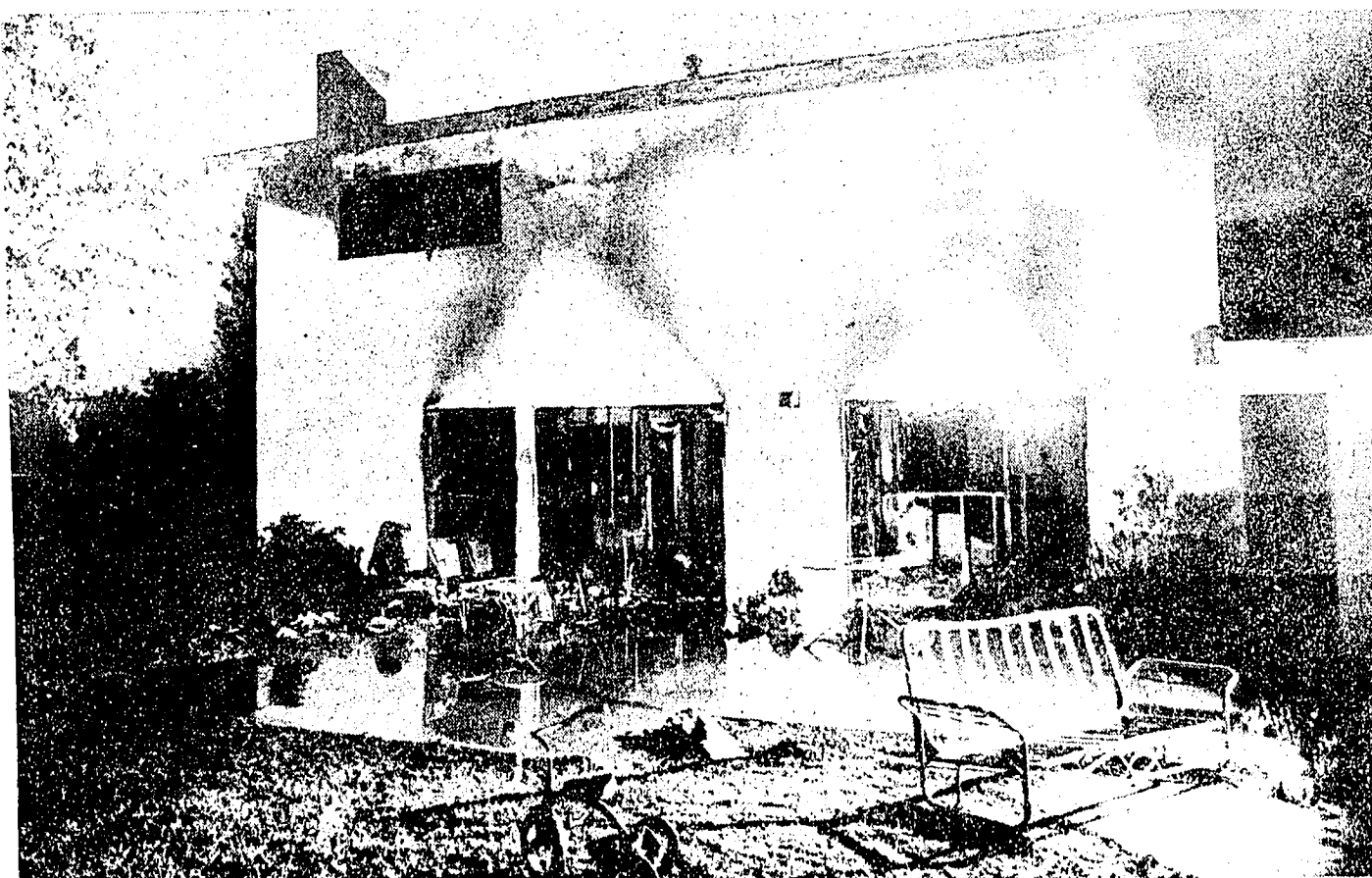
"Jay (Bondi) told us Mrs. Myers had dropped the cigarette in the chair before the party ended and that he and Mrs. Myers had brushed the ashes away with their hands. They thought they had gotten all of it . . . obviously, they hadn't."

At 2:20 a.m., Nordahl (Red) Colburn, who lives in a home behind the Myers, awoke to the sound of glass breaking from the heat of flames that had already engulfed the downstairs.

Colburn called the fire department. They arrived at 2:26 a.m. By then, it was too late.

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MOTHER'S GRIEF—Police and firemen attempt to comfort Mrs. Jay Bondi who has just learned her two children died in Glendale fire. (U. Wirephoto)



POIGNANT SCENE—Tricycle provides mute evidence of children who died in fire which gutted home at 1440 Thurlene Road, killing six. (Times photo by Boris Yaro)