

Wife of Early Pilot Suffocates

Mrs. Marie M. Kelly, 64, wife of an early day Olympic champion and pioneer airline pilot, was suffocated by smoke early yesterday in a bedroom of her home at 3015 E Chevy Chase Dr., Glendale.

Her husband Fred, 67, awakened in another bedroom by the smell of smoke, found the door to his wife's room blocked by her body. He tried to telephone firemen, but could not get through because the extension in his wife's room was off the hook.

Calls Neighbor

Kelly summoned a neighbor, Guy Hogue, and together they forced open the door, but Mrs. Kelly was dead. Firemen extinguished a smoldering blaze, listing the probable cause as smoking in bed.

Kelly became Southern California's first Olympic champion when he won the 110-meter high hurdles at Stockholm in 1912. A World War I flier and mail pilot, he was the first employee hired by Western Air Express in 1925 and went on to become chief pilot of Western Air Lines.