



SHAFFER HOME BURNING at Craft Corner on Tamarack Lane. Mel Ruder photos unless otherwise indicated.

At the Fire

(continued from page 1)

Shaffer hurried to the side of the house and broke the picture window cutting her left elbow in the process. She pushed the hose in and tried to climb inside. The room was aflame.

Earlier in the day she had been staining a door, and when flames went to the ceiling, fumes may have exploded, and apparently the stain can did. In the clothes closet were fabrics that tend to be fast burning.

She ran outside yelling for help. Neighbors, the Ron Crafts arrived and two men stopped. An effort was made by one man to get on the lower roof and enter the bedroom where the baby was. This didn't work. The window wouldn't come out.

Meanwhile a passerby went to the nearby George Keck residence where the Columbia Falls message center received the fire call at 4:17 p.m.

Mrs. Peterson homeward bound saw the Shaffer home in flames. She used her CB radio. "Please someone call Plum Creek and get word to my husband, Wayne Peterson..."

Shaffer was getting out of the house and then was shower after basketball practice at the junior high gym. Allen Jacobson, a junior high teacher, was at his home two miles north of Columbia Falls on a ridge above the valley. He and

soms, Gary and Irian were feeding cattle, when they heard fire sirens and trucks. They figured it was at the golf course or Shaffers, and got into their car and went down to help. Jacobson asked Mrs. Shaffer:

"Can I help?" She replied: "Get Dave." Jacobson hurried back to school, told Shaffer: "Your house is on fire." Dave finished dressing in the car.

Columbia Falls Volunteer firemen soon to be followed by the Bad Rock Volunteer Department had already arrived about 4:30 p.m.

Fire Chief Don Anderson told how Rob Hedstrom, a 6'6" fireman equipped with an air mask and tank went on the stairs in the hot, flaming interior. He found Kandle on the floor near a bed, face up, not burned. He cradled the little girl bringing her out from the fire. It was within a few minutes of the department's arrival.

Fireman Gary Purdy tried mouth-to-mouth resuscitation. Don Schrock and Howard Piper went to work with the Columbia Falls Volunteer Ambulance's cardio pulmonary resuscitator without result. They took the little girl to North Valley Hospital, Whitefish, where she was pronounced DOA dead on arrival.

Meanwhile Fireman Hedstrom followed by Fireman Ed Toran returned upstairs

through the flames and dense smoke looking for the little boy. A bell sounded indicating Hedstrom's air supply would be exhausted in two to three minutes. The firemen made a hasty retreat and in the process had to jump. Hedstrom injured an ankle and the edge of his fire suit was burned. Chief Anderson commented: "That was much too close."

Chief Anderson noted the fire had 21 Columbia Falls volunteers and six from the Bad Rock department who also brought a truck. Over 10,000 gallons of water were used in this stubborn residential fire that kept firemen and equipment at the location into the night. About an hour after Kandle was found, Fireman Purdy was able to get into the same northeast bedroom and he found Warren on the floor next to a bed. He wasn't burned but there were effects of heat.

As the attractive little boy was carried out, many men had lumps in their throats. Chief Anderson expressed appreciation to John Taylor of Pacific Power & Light who disconnected "hot lines" and

otherwise helped, and to the Montana Highway Patrol for supplying needed extra air masks. Deputy Sheriffs Joe Donohue and Jim Haupt directed traffic at the scene.

Tuesday evening saw friends including teachers helping the Shaffers salvage clothing from drawers in the fire that otherwise destroyed their home.

Dave commented: "Losing the house was nothing compared to loss of my baby. A house can be replaced."



FIGHTING FIRE was Columbia Falls Volunteer Fire Department, along with

Bad Rock Volunteer Fire Department.



WARREN PETERSON enjoyed swinging at Woodland Park. August, 1974 photo. Photo of Kandle is not available. Family photo.



LOTS OF SMOKE.

raised. Services for Warren will be at the Cedar Home Baptist Church. The little boy was named for Wayne's twin, Warren Peterson, killed in Vietnam.

The family had intended to return to Washington in late March, and now it's this week.

Mrs. Peterson told of her family and the Shaffers being friends, and Warren staying with Mrs. Shaffer "only about

never dreamed they'd take. I'd also like to thank Policeman Mike Stotts who picked up our other son, Paul, and took good care of him."

In Columbia Falls the Peterson attended Fellowship Alliance Church, and Mrs. Peterson commented: "At a time like this I don't know what we'd do if we didn't have faith."

Tuesday 6:27 p.m. the Columbia Falls fire siren sounded

the late Mr. and Mrs. Charles Darling, and were brothers of Pete, Vic, Flip and the late Bud and Les.

The little boys had been sliding and playing with other boys, and went into a smokehouse shed. A gallon of white gasoline used to clean clothes, was suspended high. The little boys got that can of gasoline and threw it on the fire like they'd seen adults do that time



AMONG THE FIREMEN fighting Tuesday's blaze were, left to right, Kenneth Bell, Rob Hedstrom, Dave Kono-

patzke, Gary Purdy on ladder, and chief Don Anderson, front.

Keith Klagenberg photos.

Implementing Flathead Wild, Scenic Rivers

Being implemented is development of an administration plan for the 219 miles of the Flathead River forks that as of Oct. 12, 1976 are a part of the National Wild and Scenic River System.

Team leader in local field work is Geoffrey Wilson, Hungry Horse District forester.

He noted that the Forest Service Environmental Statement is now in final form and that 340 copies are to be mailed shortly. These will go to area libraries and to those who submitted statements.

As soon as a list of private landowners is obtained an information packet is to be mailed to them, Wilson said. He hopes this will take place within the next month.

Wilson also commented that the wild, scenic and recreational river designation would pertain to up to a half mile from the rivers, and that the system extended down to the east end of Bad Rock Canyon.

Hungry Horse and Glacier View District Ranger offices as well as the supervisor's office in Kalispell have maps that show the boundaries of the designation. These can be inspected by area landowners if they wish.

There are 57,400 acres included within boundaries of the

above Spotted Bear, and 19 1/2 miles outside wilderness, while the North Fork portion amounts to 58 miles.

Privately owned shore totals 16 miles up the North Fork and 13 1/2 up the Middle Fork.

The Flathead project has a target date of July 1, 1977 for providing a legal description of the river boundary, spelling out various river classifications.

Next phase will be to develop a plan dealing with recreational use of the river.

Next year, Wilson expects, will see the acquiring of scenic easements on privately owned land, and this is described "as the most challenging project facing us. To do this Flathead National Forest plans to hire experienced people familiar with land appraisal and scenic easements. There will be months of organization and preparation before a land owner is approached for an easement, and we anticipate it will be late fall of 1978 before any landowner is contacted."

There are other requirements including the minimum size of residential lots resulting from new subdivision would be five acres with a minimum river frontage of 300 feet.

Recreational river area includes "Private land adjacent to Highway 2 between 11 towns of Hungry Horse and Coram and private land in the vicinity of West Glacier would be limited to new commercial scenic quality. Key values of its free-flowing character, limited river access, largely undeveloped and primitive shorelines, unpopulated areas, outstanding features such as scenery and wildlife."

Scenic easements purchased by the federal government periorities of the river designated as "scenic" require that general topography be maintained at its present condition, unless changes are approved by the federal government.

structures from being moved into the easement area, require that trees not be cut, except those which are dead or pose a hazard to safety, unless approved by writing, by the Forest Service, require that construction, erection, or placement of new or additional buildings, structures, or facilities be approved by the Forest Service.

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friendly folks under that roof