

otherwise helped, and to the Montana Highway Patrol for supplying needed extra air masks. Deputy Sheriffs Joe Donahoe 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 our baby. A house can be replaced."

He and Mrs. Shaffer praised the Columbia Falls Volunteer Fire Department, and the assist from Had Rock. They noted how well organized and dedicated were the firemen and ambulance men, all volunteers. Dave felt that the department should get more funds to help buy air equipment.

Tuesday evening the five surviving Shaffer children stayed with friends, the Phil Kisers. They range from Michael, the eldest who is 8, along with Monte, Karry, Kathryn and Kristine. Mr. and Mrs. Shaffer overnights with the Roy Wendts.

Wednesday the family was together at the Alvin Blades home. The Blades are in Utah to see a son, Jay, who is going on an LDS mission.

A clothes and fund drive is underway at Columbia Falls Junior High for the family. Persons who wish to participate may contact the junior high, elementary school or Principal Roy Wendt.

Here for the Friday 2 p.m. service will be family including Kandie's grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Shaffer and Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Schouten, all of Salt Lake City.

Principal Dennis Kimzey announced the March 2 junior high concert was postponed to be rescheduled later.

The Wayne Petersons didn't lose their home, but there's a tremendous void with their little fellow, Warren, gone. Survivors are one brother, Paul 7; grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Roger Naze, Mt. Vernon, Wash.; Mrs. Emma Peterson, Conway, Wash.; and Mrs. Ann Thompson, Petersburg, Alaska, great grandmother.

Warren was born Aug. 7, 1972 in Burlington near Mt. Vernon. When he was a year old the family moved to Kalispell and then Columbia Falls where Wayne has worked at Plum Creek since May 5, 1975.

Peterson said: "The firemen did everything they could. They were wonderful."

At Plum Creek co-workers much concerned about the Petersons tragedy have a fund drive.

The Peterson family was moving back to Mt. Vernon Thursday, where both were

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 1½ hours a day between the time his father went to work on the MDF swing shift at Plum Creek, and I returned from Whitefish."

Mrs. Peterson emphasized: "Mrs. Shaffer almost was killed in that fire. She did everything she could. How can I explain it. I don't know what to say, but in no way do we blame her. She and her family lost their baby and have no home."

She also commented: "There are people we haven't met who are anxious to help and I want to say something about those firemen who took chances I

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 again even as most of the men and part of the equipment were at the Shaffers.

It was a chimney-type blaze at the Larry Darling home with only slight damage. Manning the fire station for just such an emergency were a half dozen men including retired firemen.

It was in November, 1936 that two of Larry Darling's uncles, Donald, 6, and Richard, 3, perished in a shed fire near where the old city hall later was built on Nucleus Hill.

Flip Darling recalls how his brothers died. They were the two youngest of seven sons of

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 of that time use kerosene. There was an explosion. Those little boys are buried at Woodlawn.

Joe Opalka with Carl Daniels and Fay Loveall, are charter members of the present fire department organized in 1928. Opalka recalls a CC boy perished when fire destroyed the Maple Apartments in the early 1930s.

The upper Flathead knows tragic youthful deaths. On July 12, 1971, Mrs. Celia Ove and three granddaughters, ages 9, 8 and 7 were killed at the Lake Five BN crossing between Coram and West Glacier.

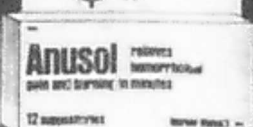
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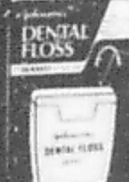
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