

'Life Won't Be the Same Again'

Two Keokuk Blast Survivors Return Home from Texas Hospital



—Associated Press

TWO KEOKUK MEN, Don Hoambrecker, left, and Herman Smith, survivors of the blast that took 21 lives at Keokuk Thanksgiving Eve, are shown in the Des Moines airport Tuesday night while enroute home from the army burn center at San Antonio, Texas.

KEOKUK (AP)—Two Keokuk men who lost their wives in the Keokuk armory explosion and fire Nov. 24 that took 21 lives returned home Tuesday night from the Brooke Army hospital Burn Center at San Antonio, Texas.

For a large part of the two months during which they were under special treatment the lives of Don G. Hoambrecker, 34, and Herman D. Smith, 32, also held by a thread.

Neither has yet fully recovered and they said that for their life never again will be the same.

Smith's wife died of burns Dec. 19. Hoambrecker and his wife were among seven taken to the Texas hospital, where Mrs. Hoambrecker died Dec. 31.

"We'll both have to give up square dancing since we both lost out partners," Smith said. The Keokuk tragedy occurred while about 60 members of the Swing Ezy Square Dance club were holding a dance at the armory.

Dozen in Hospitals
Of the survivors nearly a dozen are still in hospitals. Only three remain at Brooke Hospital in Texas and they are expected to return within a week or 10 days. They are J. W. Joy, 37, Richard L. Davis, 44, and Robert Anderson, 38.

Seven remain in hospitals in this area. Hoambrecker and Smith flew back late Tuesday, making a brief stopover in Des Moines. They were on the critical list for 30 days, under intensive care.

Hoambrecker was burned over 58 percent of his body, mainly on the legs and arms. The hands of both are reddish-pink.

Hoambrecker said they must stay out of direct sunlight for about a year. Smith said he hopes through physical therapy to regain full use of his hands, which are bent inward.

"It will be three to six months before I can go to work," Smith said. He had been a maintenance man at the General Mills plant here. His three children, aged 3 to 10 have been staying with his parents.

Hoambrecker, father of four aged 3 to 13, worked as an agent for the Burlington Railroad. The children have been staying with his wife's parents in Keokuk.

Fund at \$110,000

Meanwhile, the Swing Ezy Disaster Fund, including contributions from numerous square dance clubs throughout the country, has reached \$110,000. Keokuk high school students voted to donate proceeds of last Friday night's basketball game with Muscatine.

Kenneth Anderson, one of the directors of the fund drive, said \$95,000 of the \$110,000 now in the fund has been invested and a meeting will be held Sunday night to discuss investment of the rest.

Anderson was calling the square dance at the time of the blast. He said bills for treatment of victims at the Army Burn Centers have totaled more than \$12,000.

Whenever something you value is lost, make use of the most likely means of getting it back. Dial 362-1121 at once and say "Classified, please".

Gov. Hughes Says Amish Solution May Be 'Closer'

DES MOINES (AP) — Gov. Harold Hughes said Wednesday that "we may be closer to a solution" of the Amish school dispute as the result of a meeting between the governor and the attorney for the Amish.

Hughes said he met with the attorney, William Sindlinger of Cedar Falls, Tuesday night in Waterloo, where Hughes was honored at a testimonial dinner given by Black Hawk county Democrats.

The governor declined to reveal details of his conversation with Sindlinger, but indicated he was more optimistic about prospects for solving the dispute than he had been after his last conversation with Amish representatives in his office last week.

A group of 16 Amish fathers in northeast Iowa have been repeatedly fined for their refusal to send their children to schools with state-certified teachers. Their children have been attending two small parochial schools taught by Amish teachers who have only eighth grade educations. Property of some of the Amish has been seized and sold to satisfy some of the fines.

Hughes said he is working "both on a stop-gap and long range solution" to the dispute. "You have to have a stop-gap before you can have a long range solution," he said.

Okay Federal Funds for Four M-F-L Projects

MONONA — The M-F-L schools will begin four projects Monday which have been approved under the new federal aid to elementary and secondary schools.

- The four are:
1. A health project with Mrs. Milton Voss serving as health nurse.
 2. Remedial reading with Mrs. Lloyd Drahn aiding pupils in grades two through six who can profit from individual help in reading. She will teach fulltime.
 3. Remedial mathematics with Mrs. Richard Augustine aiding pupils in grades two through six who can profit from individual help in mathematics. She will work half-time.
 4. Two teachers aids, Mrs. Irene Wall and Marlene Blietz, assisting the qualified teachers, so the teachers will have more time to devote to their teaching duties.

The federal grant also allows for the hiring of Mrs. Robert Hansmeier part-time to assist Harold James, business teacher and guidance counselor. Quite an extensive summer program will be offered this summer under the provision of this bill. More information on the summer program will be announced later.



—Associated Press

New Job for East Iowan

Victor Gallo, 45, a Democrat from Strawberry Point, Tuesday took over as state printing board chief in Des Moines, succeeding S. E. Tennant, 76, Colfax Republican. Gallo was publisher of the Clayton County Press-Journal, a weekly newspaper in Strawberry Point. Gallo's salary is expected to be \$12,000 a year.

Touch-Phone Links School In Iowa City

IOWA CITY — A successful experiment in transmitting pupil attendance data by touch-tone telephone from Lincoln elementary school of Iowa City to the Iowa Educational Information center at the University of Iowa has shown the advantages of economic feasibility of such a system.

Cooperating in the project were Peter P. McGraw, assistant director of the center; Don Morgan, research associate, and Principal Richard J. Hovet and Secretary Judy Gardner of Lincoln.

The only equipment required at Lincoln school was an ordinary telephone line, a touch-tone telephone and box of perforated plastic cards. After punching holes in the cards, they were used to dial the receiving location and transmit the data. The cards have a capacity of 14 characters or signals and are easily prepared with a stylus or ordinary pencil point.

The touch-tone telephone employs push buttons instead of a dial. These push buttons transmit tones in various combinations which are translated at the receiving end into electrical impulses by a data set. The data set interprets the signals received over commercial telephone lines for the data processing equipment. In this case the data processing equipment was an IBM 026 model 6 card punch. The impulses fed to the card punch activated numeric keys as well as other functional switches. Two extra keys on the touch-tone telephone send signals to talk and to indicate the end of the record. The resulting punched cards are fed directly into a computer.

Absent List

Lincoln's attendance procedures, which remained unchanged during the data transmission test, involved teachers submitting lists of absent and tardy pupils to the principal's office each morning and afternoon. In turn, Mrs. Gardner used the touch-tone telephone to transmit the data to the receiving set at the Iowa Educational Information Center.

Mrs. Gardner used two decks of plastic cards — a set of pupil cards arranged by homeroom and a set of header cards for each type of transaction such as absent a.m., absent p.m., absent all day, tardy.

One of the objectives of the project was to develop a system simple enough to explain to a new clerk or secretary by phone. Instructions were given to Mrs. Gardner in just two minutes, and she was familiar with the new procedure after one trial. The first procedure tested required her to select the pupil cards from the box, arrange them in groups, transmit the data, and refill the cards. She averaged 33.2 seconds per pupil for the entire procedure.

In an alternate procedure each card was pulled, transmitted, a transaction code manually keyed in by Mrs. Gardner, and the card refilled in one operation. Longer transmission time was required under this system, but the total clerical time for attendance accounting was reduced by 50 percent.

Time Saver

A big advantage of touch-tone transmission is that the data are accumulated in a central location for preparation of attendance reports needed by local schools, the state department of public instruction, and federal agencies. In addition this procedure eliminates many time-consuming steps now used by schools and provides school people with an up-to-date file.

Once the daily record of entries, withdrawals, absences, and times tardy is transmitted, the school's responsibility has been fulfilled. The machines—the card punch and computer—do the rest.

Linn County Teachers To ISEA Meeting

Five Linn county teachers will be among 218 delegates named to represent more than 33,000 educators at the annual Iowa State Education Assn. (ISEA) delegate assembly in Des Moines Thursday through Saturday.

The delegate assembly is the policy-making body of the ISEA. Attending will be James White, Linn-Mar; Dwight Fausch, Springfield; Pauline Bowdish, Centrai City; William Yaisley, College Community; Richard Sorensen, Marion Independent.

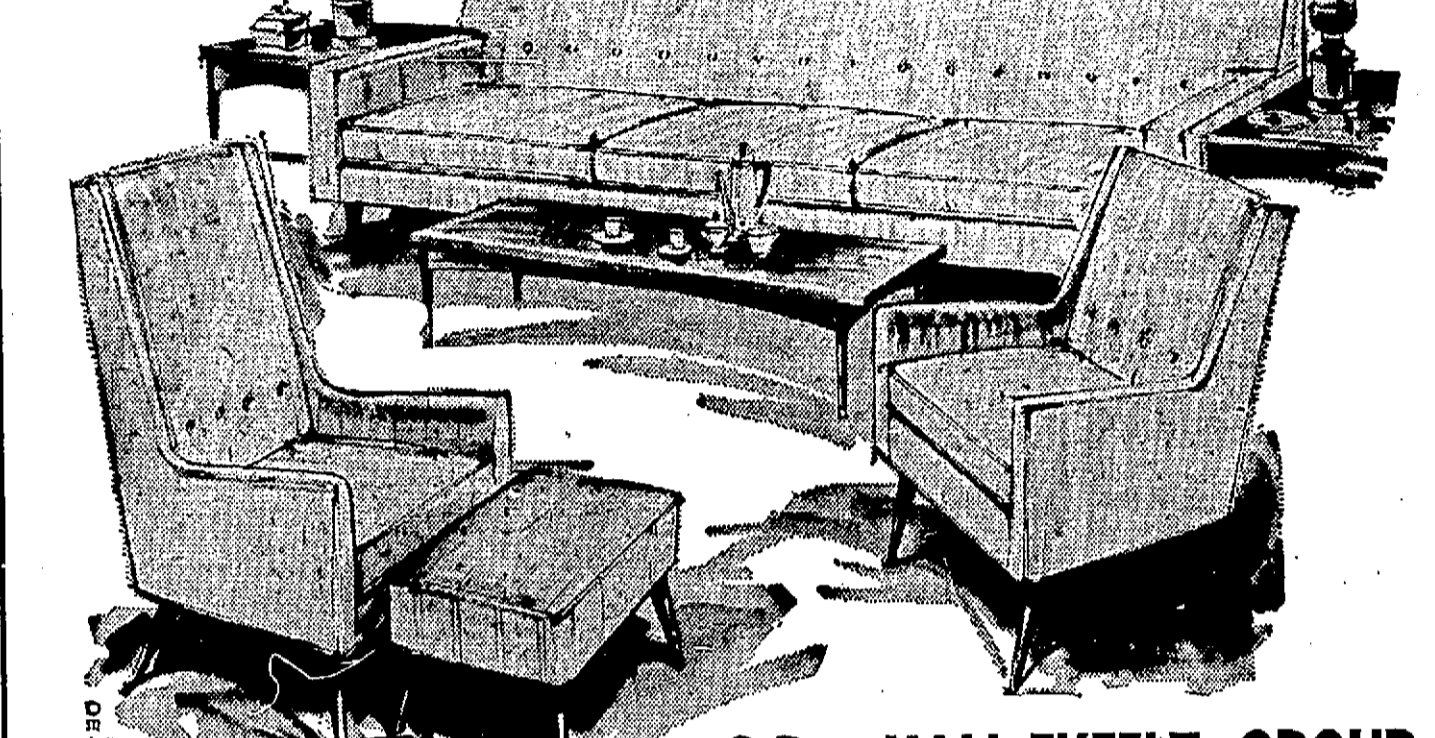
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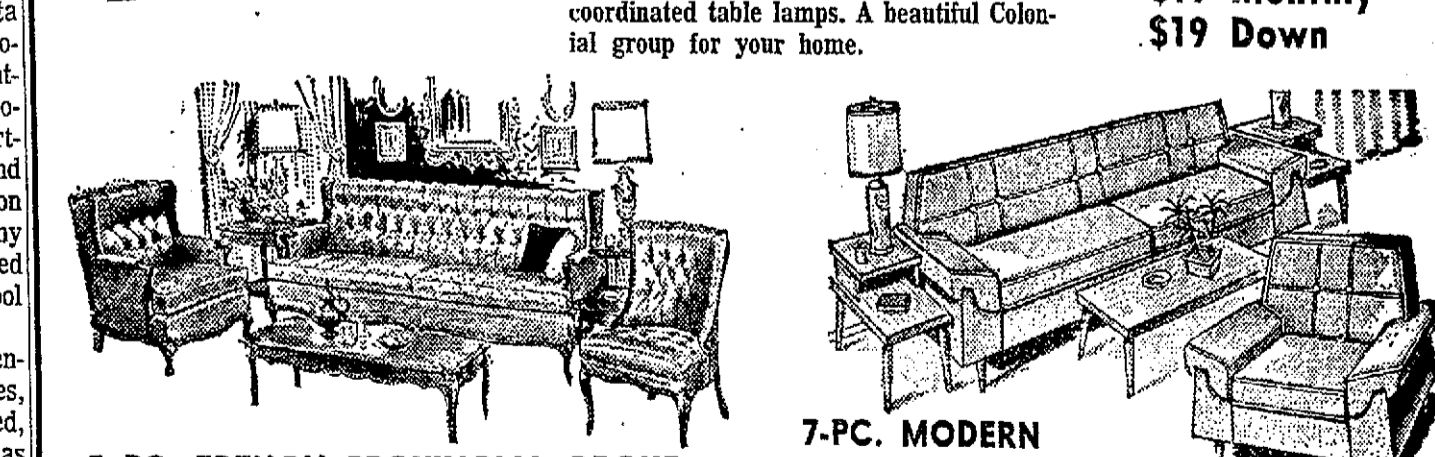
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