

WEATHER

Today: Cloudy, chance of showers.
Tomorrow: Cloudy, cooler.
Tides:
High 8:52 a.m.; 9:04 p.m.
Low 2:55 a.m.; 2:49 p.m.
(More Weather on Page 22)
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4 DIE IN BRIGHTON TOWERS FIRE

By JOHN L. BOUCHER

Four persons died and 20 were injured Friday when a general alarm fire swept through two floors of the 12-story Brighton Towers, a luxury apartment at Atlantic Avenue between Brighton Avenue and Stenton Place.

Found in the building, which had been advertised as fireproof, were Maria Falgatore, 42, of Apartment 803, a waitress at the 500 Club, and Judith Stout, 25, an Atlantic City Hospital nurse.

Mrs. Marie Andisman of Apartment 811 was the victim of an apparent heart attack while a fourth person was not immediately identified.

Two of the dead were found in the rubble of a stalled elevator on the seventh floor. A maintenance man operating the elevator said he was

spared their tragic fate when he was blown through the door when the fire began.

FELLED BY SMOKE

Another victim was taken from a 10th floor elevator where apparently she was overcome by the dense smoke that billowed through the aluminum and glass structure.

The blaze fought by more than 300 firemen broke out at 7:30 p.m. and was reported under control nearly two hours later.

Flames ate through the seventh and eighth floor apartments and burst out through the Atlantic and Brighton Avenue sides over small balconies extending from the walls.

Fire Marshal Michael Bloomberg said the fire began in the seventh floor apartment of Mrs. Sandra Toner,

a newlywed who was waiting for her husband to come home for dinner. Apparently grease in a frying pan on the stove flared up and Mrs. Toner's efforts to douse it with salt only made it worse.

Bloomberg said that James O'Hagen, 64, the apartment superintendent, heard the automatic fire alarm and rushed to the Toner apartment.

He tried to put out the flames with a fire extinguisher but was badly burned in the hands and had to give up his efforts. From there the fire spread to Apartment 711, owned by Louis Kayser, and from there to adjoining apartments.

Both Mrs. Toner and Hagen were admitted to Atlantic City Hospital. Also admitted were Sarah Seidman and Eva Haskowitz.

Treated and released were: Alfred Beckley, Rose Rosen, Warren Byrone, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Hett, Sadie Bernstein, Regina Reddy, William Mall, Mr. and Mrs. Herman Freeman, Henrietta Harris, Fireman Bruce Craley, Deputy Fire Chief Edward Jordan and Police Captain James Lynch.

Lynch, in charge of the uniformed police shift on duty at the time of the blaze, was overcome by smoke as he and his men were breaking down doors to alert the terrified residents.

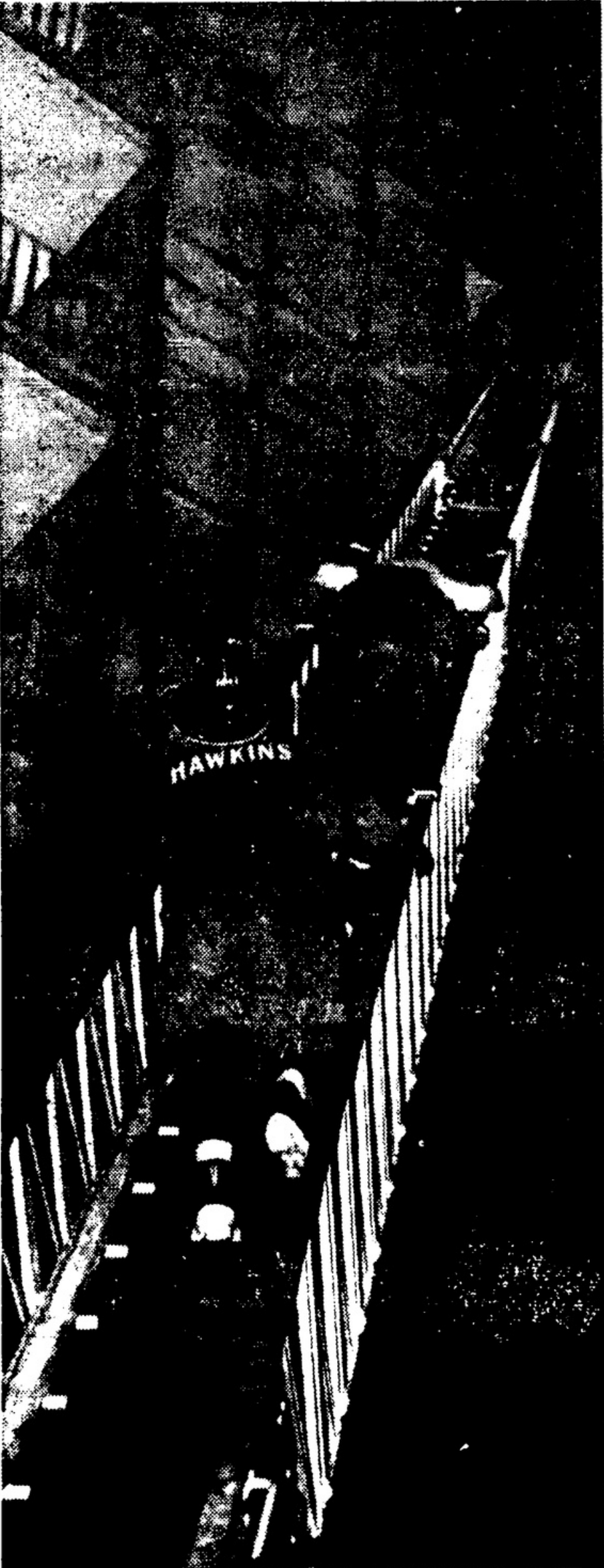
All the injured were treated for burns and smoke inhalation.

Although the blaze was confined to the seventh and eighth floors, but smoke spread through out the entire building and firemen mounting extension ladders from four aerial trucks were rescuing the smoke-choked and

(Continued on Page 2)



CARRIED TO SAFETY — Mrs. Sandra Toner, in whose apartment the tragic Brighton Towers general alarm blaze erupted, is carried to safety by police and firemen. The policeman aiding Mrs. Toner is Patrolman Harold Maguire.



HAZARDOUS CLIMB — Firemen scale the blazing apartment building in search of residents trapped inside the holocaust which gutted the entire seventh and eighth floors.

Homeless Relive Moments of Fear

By WILLIAM BONVIE
Press Staff Writer

A tale of unexpected chaos and horror visited on the residents of a luxury apartment building during a quiet, rainy Friday evening was relived several hours later as refugees from the upper floors of the Brighton Towers told how it was.

Between 80 and 90 people, many of them elderly, who were forced out of their apartments by the deadly holocaust that swept through two floors of the

Nixon Orders Armed Flights

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Nixon ordered Friday resumption of reconnaissance flights off North Korea but under armed protection not hitherto provided.

Neither the White House nor the Defense Department would specify what form this protection would take but the Pentagon announced redeployment of 16 extensive forces, including the battleship New Jersey and, presumably a pair of aircraft carriers.

Any immediate military retaliation has been ruled out and the moves appear to be simply implementation of protective steps.

The first Pentagon announcement spoke of both ships and aircraft. A second announcement some hours later, said:

"We are able to confirm published reports that the USS New Jersey has been diverted from her scheduled arrival at Long Beach, Calif., and is returning to the Western Pacific."

The New Jersey, the only active battleship in the world, had been homebound after a tour of duty off Vietnam where her 16-inch guns were used to pound targets up to 20 miles inland.

American intelligence ships and planes in international waters and airspace "are not fair game," Nixon declared, and "They will not be in the future."

In saying the flights will be protected, Nixon said: "This is not a threat. It is simply a statement of fact."

Nixon ended his public silence (Continued on Page 2)

Jail Suspended For Pierpont

By DOROTHY REID
Press Staff Writer

James M. Pierpont, 32, former acting superintendent of the Egg Harbor Township schools, was sentenced Friday to a two-to-three-year suspended term in State Prison, fined \$200, and ordered to make full restitution of \$1,439 in school funds he admitted embezzling.

He also was placed on probation for two years by Judge Thomas W. Rauffenbart.

Pierpont's attorney, told the court that his client already had paid back \$860 to the school board. The balance of payments, the judge directed, are to be made directly to the probation office.

Pierpont pleaded guilty on Feb. 19 to the charge that he had taken the money from the Student Activity Fund at the H. Russell Swift School over a period starting in January 1967.

The theft reportedly was not discovered until the following year, and Pierpont was dismissed last June 30. He was then vice principal of the Swift school.

He was appointed acting superintendent for about six months in July 1968 following the resignation of Superintendent Eugene H. Slaybaugh, who has since returned to the post.

Pierpont, married and the father of two children, now is chairman of the English Department in one of the Willingboro schools.

School officials in that Burlington County community are aware of Pierpont's criminal indictment and guilty plea, Kupperman indicated, and wrote letters to local officials commending his work in their schools.

"I often wonder what makes a man like you tick the way you did," Judge Rauffenbart said to Pierpont, and reminded (Continued on Page 2)

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Wife Death Suspect Hurt in Shoot-Out

VINELAND — Casey Days, 58, of 402 Plum St., injured in a shoot-out with police Friday morning, is under guard at Newcomb Hospital, prime suspect in the fatal shooting of his wife.

Police found his wife, Arlene Days, 55, lying on the floor of their home, dead from a single shot in her head. Point of entry was on the left side of her nose just above the upper lip. An autopsy was performed at 3 p.m. to recover the bullet.

Police theorized a .22-caliber rifle was used in the shooting. Days was first spotted by Ptl. Russell Fiordimondo about 8:45 a.m. Friday walking north on Fourth Street near Peach Street, carrying a rifle and acting in a suspicious manner.

He radioed headquarters for assistance. First to arrive were Ptl. Eugene Smith, Det. Michael Tirelli, Director of Public Safety Edward Rossi, Ptl. Richard Lahn and Sgt. Michael Bianco. Days was asked to put down his rifle and discuss his problem, to which he replied "I can't do it," according to Chief Ralph Mastrogianni. He dart-

ed from tree to tree, occasionally shooting at the policemen. In the meantime, Capt. Joseph Cassisi, Sgt. Bernard Castellini, Sgt. Arthur Becker and Det. Joseph Soracco went to the scene.

One of Days' shots narrowly missed Det. Tirelli. Ptl. Fiordimondo and Ptl. Lahn fired back, with one of the shots catching Days in the right shoulder, knocking him down.

The policemen rushed over and disarmed him. While they were administering first aid, Days said he had shot his wife.

Days was taken to Newcomb Hospital and Dets. Soracco and Tirelli took over the investigation of the homicide. Days has given a statement, Chief Mastrogianni said, but its contents cannot be disclosed.

When Days is released from the hospital, he will be charged with murder and assault on police officers and placed in the county jail. The arraignment will be here, but the date is not set.

According to the chief, Days will remain under 24-hour guard while hospitalized.

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HORROR REIGNS — Cycle Policeman Joe Rifice, right, displays the shock registered by all at Brighton Towers last night. A crowd of policemen and by-

standers watch silently as the first victim is removed from the gutted elevator.