

Few Remain At Northfield Despite Advancing Fire



Preparing For The Worst

Residents wet down a farm building on the outskirts of Northfield as smoke from a raging woods fire hangs low over the area.

NORTHFIELD — Only 17 persons will stay Sunday night here under the menacing shadow of Maine's greatest forest fire in 18 years.

Sixty-two others, comprising about 11 families, have packed their belongings into cars and trucks and scurried off to safer ground.

One of the steadfast residents is 93-year-old A. Sawyer Allen who lives with his wife and 18-year-old daughter on Route 192 within a mile and a half of the fire.

"WE'RE WATCHING the wind," Allen reported late Sunday afternoon. "I'll go down the road in an hour or two to see if it's settling any worse. I'm all packed up so I can get out at a moment's notice."

He said the worst part of the fire is at Great Falls on the Machias River about five miles from his house.

"The smoke's bad enough here to be damn annoying," Allen reported.

He is a Northfield teacher and school committee member and works a variety of odd jobs. "I do some accounting for the people around here and I was to take charge of a blueberry operation tomorrow but that's going to be canceled," he explained.

Allen said he and his family are staying because it's easier than leaving. But he added, "I'll be sleeping with one eye open all night."

JOSEPHINE COX is another one who's staying. She lives with her husband, Lindell, and older daughter, on Route 192 near Bog Lake, farther away from the fire than Allen.

"We're mighty apprehensive about this," said Mrs. Cox. "We've got our personal things moved out on the lawn although the furniture is still in the house."

She said it looks as if the fire is circling the town on three sides and the "situation still is desperate."

"But, so far, no dwellings—outside of a couple of hunting camps—have been lost," she reported.

THE SAUNDERS family moved out of Northfield Sunday morning.

According to Allen, the other persons remaining include two couples, one with a son, the other with two infant sons, three unmarried men and a widow.

"Eight houses in the town are still inhabited," he said.

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Fire Fighters Win Round In Woods Inferno Fight

By MURROGH J. OBRIEN Staff Reporter

Fire fighters made and held a defense perimeter along Route 192 in Northfield Sunday to score their first success in stemming the advance of the huge Whiteleyville forest fire.

Seventy hundred men harked and bulldozed a fire break, aided by water-bombing planes and a moisture-laden wind.

Forestry supervisors said the fire was "lying quiet" early Sunday evening and crews would work through the night to put a line around it.

Forestry Commissioner Austin H. Wilkins said Sunday was "a day of optimism." The first such since the blaze began Wednesday in a nearby Centerville peat bog.

But he also said "conditions must remain the same" if the fire is to be further contained.

WINDS SUNDAY of 20 to 25 m.p.h. did not aid the blaze as much as they have in past days. While they fanned flames, they also brought in some evening and crewed that settled over the coast early Sunday morning.

Similar winds and high temperatures are predicted for Monday.

Although most residents of Northfield—directly in front of the blaze—voluntarily evacuated their homes over the weekend, officials say no other towns would be jeopardized by the fire's path.

Wilkins reported new men were being brought in Sunday night to relieve men who have been on the line for days.

He said the State Highway Commission is contributing 80 men to its maintenance crews in the Machias area.

Sevenhundred men are coming from the National Park Service at Acadia National Park, he said, and 30 boys from the Outward Bound School on Hurricane Island.

Wilkins reported that 20,000 feet of hose and extra portable pumps arrived Sunday by plane and truck from New York and Rhode Island.

He said he couldn't estimate the number of men fighting the fire, but news sources give it as between 400 and 700.

"aren't as great as originally we thought."

The area blackened by the blaze — the largest since 1947 is about 10,000 acres (14 square miles). "My men don't

think it's as large as we figured," Wilkins said.

THE FIRE CREWS worked Sunday with hand tools and bulldozers in cutting fire breaks on the northern and northeastern flanks of the fire.

At only one area did flames jump Route 192, continuing to flare about a mile in the woods there. But no significant advance was reported.

If the fire did succeed in getting entrenched north of the road, there is no line of defense until Maine 191 crosses through the woods about 10 miles further on.

Continued on Page 14; 1st Col.

Gen. Taylor Sees No Need For U.S. To Bomb Hanoi

WASHINGTON (AP) — Gen. Maxwell D. Taylor, former ambassador to South Viet Nam, said Sunday "we don't need to bomb Hanoi."

Taylor was asked during the NBC radio-television program "Meet the Press" whether the United States can win the war in South Viet Nam without bombing Hanoi, seat of Communist leadership in North Viet Nam.

"As a matter of fact, we don't need to bomb Hanoi," Taylor began, and then paused. "I wouldn't think we would want to bomb Hanoi. I think we need the leadership in Hanoi to be intact to make those essential decisions we hope they will make at some time."

Presumably the former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff was referring to negotiations which the United States has sought in efforts to end the Vietnamese war.

Taylor was then asked: "Then our aim is to fight this war without bombing Hanoi?"

"I would not make that statement," he replied.

President Johnson indicated Friday that the United States has no present plans to bomb Hanoi. This indication came in a conference with Ghana's foreign minister, Alex Quaison-Sackey, who expressed concern for the safety of Ghana's president if he were to be bombed.

Bill D. Moyers, White House press secretary, issued a statement after the conference that said: "The President stated that concern (about bombings) was unnecessary because there is no U.S. military action against Hanoi. As the President said,

Decision Made At Katahdin

By GENE LETOURNEAU Wildlife Reporter

ROARING BROOK CAMPGROUND, BAXTER PARK — The intensive survival phase of the search for two boys lost nine days in Baxter State Park will end Monday night.

The decision was announced Sunday by Fish and Game Commissioner Harold F. Speers, who stated that a recovery operation will be continued indefinitely by wardens of supervisor Dave Priest's division.

Speers conferred with Mr. and Mrs. George R. Mott of Rochester, N.Y., Sunday over aspects of the search for their two boys, Robbie, 17, and Timothy, 7.

The parents accepted the decision calmly. They said they were "highly impressed" with what has been done and are satisfied everything possible was carried out in an effort to find the boys.

Speers also said he planned to request an inquiry of the entire search similar to that held in the case of Mrs. Margaret Ivusic of Boston and Rainer Ralph Heath who lost their lives in an October blizzard on Knife Edge of Baxter Peak.

THE REQUEST will be filed with Attorney General Richard Dubord, who is a member of the Baxter Park Authority.

Speers conferred with the Motts for nearly an hour. With him were Chief Warden Maynard Marsh, Deputy Chief Jack Shaw and Priest.

Speers said the decision to halt the intensive search was made following receipt of a medical report from Dr. Dean Fisher, Maine's Director of Health and Welfare. He quoted the report as saying, "Based on the best medical considerations, Robbie could not have survived a week."

Fisher's report said of Robbie: "On the basis of the best information available, the boy appears to be a seriously mentally retarded child and is retarded in his physical development, and is known to be a serious diabetic. x x x Timothy appears to be a normal child of that age. x x x"

"IT IS SOMEWHAT more difficult to feel equally certain about the possible length of survival of Timothy; however it is almost impossible to imagine any conceivable set of circumstances which would have permitted his survival beyond one week."

The Motts indicated they plan to remain at the campground through Monday and return to their home Tuesday.

National Guardsmen from Company C, 262 Engineers who have been springing since a week ago Saturday, will be withdrawn Monday night.

The searchers dropped to 300 from the high of over 400 Saturday. Rain fell over the area during the day to alleviate explosive fire conditions which brought a smoking ban Saturday. Not one encouraging clue or lead was unearthed during the ninth day's search.

THE POSSIBILITY of abduction was not dismissed. Investigation of that phase of the boys' disappearance was being conducted by Maine State Police.

Speers said he had discussed the situation several times with Governor Reed and on the basis of the medical report Reed concurred with him that the intensive phase of the search be terminated Monday night. Speers praised the effort of every unit that took part in the search.

"My personal sympathy and that of Gov. Reed, and that I am sure of everyone in the State of Maine is extended to Mr. and Mrs. Mott at this time. x x x"

Intensive Search Ends Tonight



Bushed

These exhausted Civil Air Patrol cadets are fast asleep against a granite boulder after eight hours of searching wilderness at the base of

Mount Katahdin for Robbie and Timothy Mott of Rochester, N.Y., who disappeared 9 days ago.

Hanoi Pledges Help For Cong

SAIGON, South Viet Nam (AP) — North Viet Nam declared Sunday it is ready to respond to a call for help against the Americans by the Viet Cong guerrillas.

"We must do and have fully the right to do all necessary things to defeat the U.S. aggressors and completely liberate our country," said the official newspaper Nhan Dan.

But at broadcast from Hanoi the newspaper statement indicated that the Viet Cong, whose call on North Viet Nam for help was made public Friday, might not need any assistance now.

The Viet Cong call was in answer to President Johnson's announcement July 28 that 50,000 more U.S. troops would be sent to South Viet Nam.

The newspaper said the Viet Cong have "all moral and material conditions to continue their sacred war of resistance until final victory."

The Viet Cong was inactive again in South Viet Nam, except for harassing mortar attacks on government outposts and towns in Chuong Thien Province, 105 to 120 miles southwest of Saigon.

U.S. spokesmen said Vietnamese forces reported they killed 24 Viet Cong in two actions Saturday in areas far north of Saigon.

Twelve Viet Cong were said to have been killed in a search-and-destroy operation in Thua Thien Province about 385 miles northeast of the capital. Government casualties in the continuing action were described as light.

Another operation in Binh Dinh Province about 215 miles northeast of Saigon was said to have resulted in 12 Viet Cong killed and four captured. Hanoi officers said government casualties so far were light.

While limited ground action was reported, air strikes went on late Saturday against southern Viet Nam.

Continued on Page 14; 2nd Col.

Prayer For Today

Bless my life this day, O Lord, as I move with calm expectation into the known and unknown moments to be lived and the remembrance of Thy word on the knowledge of Thy loving care. Bless the unexpected as I face it, seeking and the remembrance of Thy presence in the world and responding to that word and that love. Bless the words I must and the witness, the conquest of North Viet Nam that their adventure try to take over South Viet Nam by force will not succeed. We will not permit them to succeed in their conquest of South Viet Nam by force."

Police Arrest 35 Young People Blocking White House Entrance

WASHINGTON (AP) — Police arrested 35 young persons at the White House Saturday in an attempt to block Pennsylvania Avenue and an entrance to the White House on Sunday as they demonstrated against U.S. involvement in Viet Nam.

The incident was over quickly and the demonstrators who were not arrested — mostly teenagers — and college-age youths — resumed circulating in a token force of about 40 on the sidewalk in front of the executive mansion.

Their numbers swelled to more than 120 later in the day and included about 50 members of the Women's Strike for Peace.

This latter group left at the day at Camp David, in the Maryland mountains.

The demonstrators are a part of a recently formed group calling itself the Assembly of Unrepresented People.

While a portion plucked the White House, another group gathered around the Washington Monument.

The long-haired, bearded youths and the girls carried signs which read: "Refuse to serve in the armed forces; no more Hiroshimas; no more Viet Nams."

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Continued on Page 2; 6th Col.

News, Features On The Inside

The Weather

Sunny, warm today; chance of showers in afternoon. Scattered showers Tuesday. Full report on Page 2.

REPORTER NAM LUBELL DISCOVERS mood of futility shapting up over war in Viet Nam. Page 14.

AS SOCIAL SECURITY benefits increase, so does the tax that makes them possible. Page 4.

CONGRESS APPEARS READY THIS WEEK to approve new Cabinet Department of Urban Affairs. Back Page.

Classified	Deaths	3	Landers	3	Theaters	14	
Clearing	Editorials	10	Lebanon	12	Town, City	10	
House	Obituary	15	Letters	10	News	8, 9	
Comics	15	Green	6	Sleepers	10	Women's	8
Crossword	16	Horsepower	4	Sports	11-13	Pages	8
	11	Jumble	8	Television	7		

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