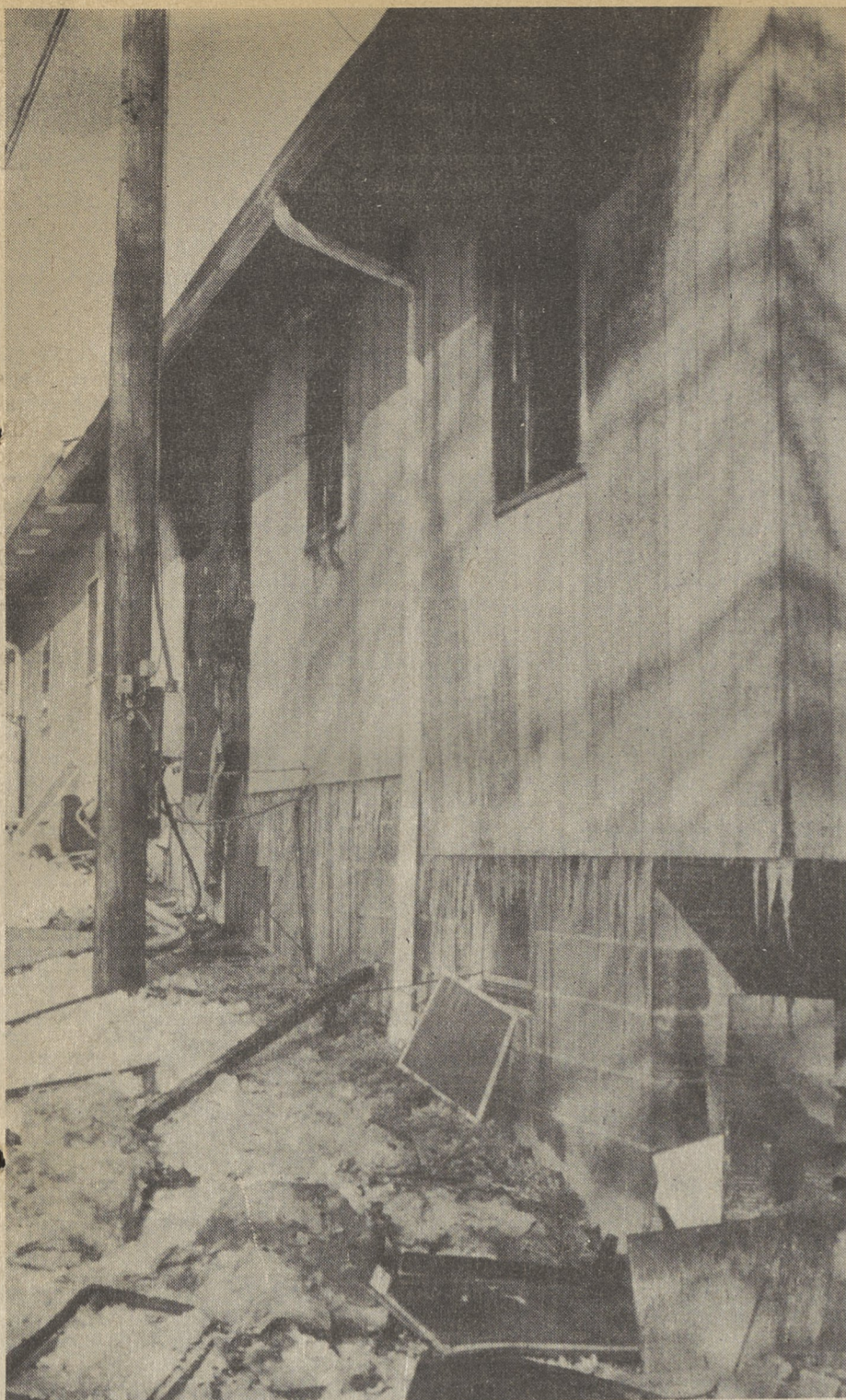


Eight homeless after mid-winter blaze



WHAT'S LEFT—The remains of the wood and brick structure which was once the home of Len DeLeur and his family stands on Rood Avenue at Harveys Lake. The dwelling was destroyed by fire last week. (Dan Walsh Photo)

Len DeLeur is looking for a place for his family and himself to live following a mid-winter blaze which destroyed his Rood Avenue home at Harveys Lake last week.

DeLeur is looking to find homes in the Back Mountain for his two daughters, their husbands and three grandchildren. The family was left homeless last Wednesday, Jan. 19, when their wood and brick home was burned in a fire of electrical origin. "Originally, we thought the cause was a dryer vent," explained DeLeur. "But now we don't think so. We do know it was something electrical."

Harveys Lake Fire Chief Richard Williams said the blaze was first found between the dryer and the bathtub.

Shortly after the blaze, friends, neighbors and people who did not even know the family started coming forward with clothing for the children who had lost everything to

the flames. The DeLeur children, and grandchildren affected by the fire include: DJ and Michael, baby boys, 18 and 24 months old; Tiffany, a size three; Candy and Carol, daughters, both size nine; son-in-law Dan Harris, size 30-34; and son-in-law Ron Fink, size 33-33, large shirt. DeLeur himself also had his belongings go up in flames. He wears a size 32 waist, short length and medium or large shirt.

At home when the fire broke out at 2:30 p.m. were Candy and Carol and the babies. The first sign of trouble came when a smoke alarm went off. As the girls investigated its cause they opened a bathroom door and flames shot out. The two women grabbed up the babies and ran to a neighbors. The home in which they had lived for 10 years, proceeded to burn until the entire inside was ruined.

Firefighters from

Harveys Lake and Kunkle responded to the call in below freezing temperatures. Firefighting efforts were hampered by bitter cold winds, and the situation was complicated by the need to return to the scene at 8:30 that evening in even worse weather conditions. Williams said hose freeze ups were a problem, especially during the second flare up.

Approximately 30 firefighters were on the scene during the original blaze and the call back.

Williams said the house had initially been a trailer which DeLeur had remodeled into a one-story home. False walls, created by the remodeling and an excellent insulating job added to the firemen's woes. "He had done a very good job remodeling and adding on, but the eight to 10 inches of insulation made it tough to fight the blaze," he said. "Between that and the bitter winds, we were lucky to get it under control the second time."

DeLeur estimated the value of the house at approximately \$50,000. This does not, however, include its contents.

He has decided to bulldoze the two-family dwelling and start anew. His first priority, however, is finding homes for those members of his family who are now staying with friends and neighbors. Anyone who can provide an apartment for the two families can reach DeLeur at his place of business on Memorial Highway, Back to Basics.

Premiums dropped

The Veterans Administration has announced that beginning Jan. 1, United States Government Life Insurance (USGLI) policyholders will no longer be required to pay premiums for their coverage, according to Harold T. Bushey, director of the Pittsburgh Regional Office. USGLI policies were issued generally to World War I

veterans and are prefixed by the letter "K".

This change does not affect National Service Life Insurance policyholders. NSLI policy numbers are prefixed with "V", "H", "RS", "W", "J", "JR", "JS" and "RH". These policyholders will continue to pay premiums when due.

More information about this change is available at all VA regional offices nationwide.

No repeat of upset for Lady Cagers

Seton Catholic downed the Lady Mountaineers hopes to vie for the first half lead when they downed them 57-51 in Division AA competition Friday.

Dallas girls tried to repeat last year's upset of the Eagles and opened the first half with an eight point lead. Not for long as the Seton girls came on relentlessly and ended the quarter with a 16-15 lead. In the second quarter they poured it on with Mary Ann Mozal setting the pace with 26 points. The Eagles worked the ball inside during the quarter to take a 10 point lead at half time.

The rest of the game was played even but the Lady Mountaineers were unable to overtake the Eagles first half lead.

High scorers for Dallas were sophomore Cheryl Gavigan with 26 and Kathy Walsh with 10.

On Saturday afternoon, Dallas girls downed Crestwood 55-41 paced by Kathy Walsh's 13 points and Sharon Eyet's 12. Eyet tossed in eight of her points in the second

quarter which proved to be the turning point of the game.

The game was played even until the final minutes of the first quarter when Dallas took a 10-4 lead. The Lady Mounts outscored the Comettes 22-12 in the second period.

Coach Kit Karuza was happy with the Dallas girls 81-30 win over Hanover last Tuesday. He was hopeful it would help the team get back on the track for some good playing.

The Lady Mounts took an early 19-8 lead and stretched it to 35-14 going into the lockerroom at halftime. Karuza emptied the bench but his girls continued to outscore the young Hanover team in the second half.

Kathy Walsh paced the team with 26 points and Felicia Tucker hit the double digits with 10.

"They're a young team," said Karuza, referring to Hanover. "They will get better with each game. They'll be more difficult the second half."

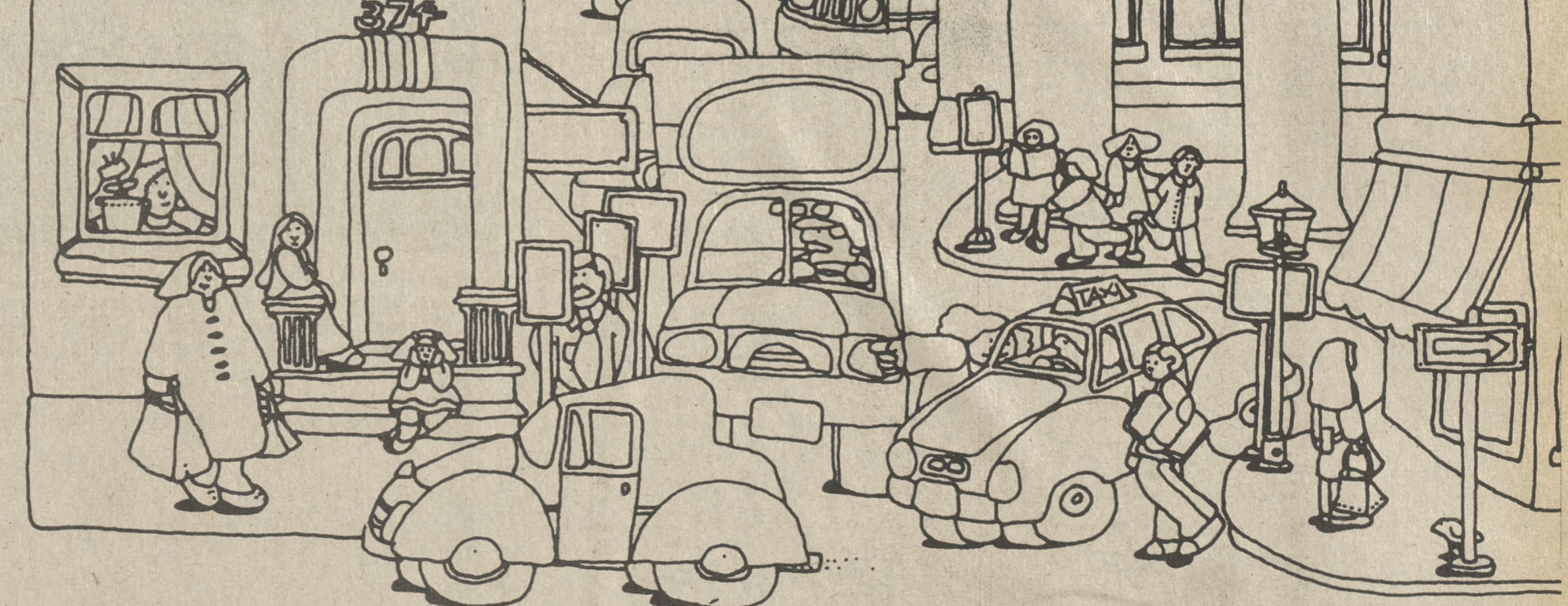
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