

Knowles Family Home To Be Rebuilt By City Crew

Workmen in the employ of the City of Winter Park will rebuild, on their own time, the home of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Knowles, Bennett Avenue, burned to the ground in a fire early Monday morning. Lumber for rebuilding is being donated by Mrs. Carter, Terrace Drive, Orlando.

Meanwhile money is coming in to a special fund set up at the Florida Bank, and at press time yesterday the sum totaled over \$200, to aid in clothing the five Knowles children, and getting the immediate necessities for the family.

Free use of a home in Longwood has been offered the family by Mr. and Mrs. Rodney Ihrig, and neighbors of the burned-out family have been busy the past two days getting the home ready for occupancy, until the Knowles' own home can be rebuilt.

Mrs. Knowles and her daughter, Carol Ann, reentered the hospital Wednesday morning for further treatment.

"Words can't express my gratitude to the wonderful people of Winter Park for their help," Mr. Knowles said. "They have the biggest hearts of any people in the world, and I wouldn't live anywhere else. I would like to appeal to everyone to talk to God a little more than they do—it would help us all."

The Killarney Fire Department and the Winter Park Fire Department are heading up a drive for clothing, furniture, etc., and hundreds of articles are being left at these two depositories for the Knowles family. Fred Don Cook, of the local fire department, has offered the services of his truck for pick-ups, and anyone having heavy articles to donate may have them picked up by calling the fire department. The auxiliary of the Killarney Fire Department has also been active in getting bed linens, clothing, and other items.

Mr. and Mrs. Knowles and their five children were awakened early Monday morning by an explosion in the living room of their home. Knowles, superintendent of a city tree crew, his wife, Bonnie, and four of their five children were burned in their attempt to escape. Knowles passed four of the children through a window of the one-story home to his wife outside,

and the fifth child escaped without assistance.

Both the Killarney Fire Department and the Winter Park firemen responded to the call, but arrived too late to salvage any of the family's possessions.

Killarney Fire Chief Charles Meador and Knowles believe the fire began when heat from a television set ignited a jug of gasoline left overnight in the living room.

All members of the family suffered burns in some degree, with Carol Ann, six, receiving the most serious burns on the legs. Mr. Knowles was burned on the chest and shoulders, while his wife was burned on both legs and feet. Paul, 9, suffered burns on the right shoulder and legs; Clifton, 12, fingers burned on both hands; and Mary, 11, fingers burned on one hand.

The family was taken to the Florida Sanitarium and Hospital for emergency treatment.

Among the donations that have come in at the local fire department for the destitute family are shoes for the entire family from Mr. and Mrs. Peter Hendricks, and clothing; linen and silver, Mrs. Nelson King; clothing, Howard Wheeler; refrigerator, Congregational Church; bed, Alice Knox; clothing, Godfrey Frahe; mattress and springs, Joe D'Agostino; sofa, chairs, Mrs. Sykes; bunk beds, Mrs. Audrey Stone; bedsprings and mattress, D. H. Welch; \$10 Joe Krizek; \$42 Kiwanis Club; \$100 Rotary Club; \$23 Lions Auxiliary; clothing, Mrs. Ray Coleman; clothing, G. C. Parker; shoes, George Plimley; porch furniture and living room suite, C. H. Johnson; gas stove, Mrs. L. R. Sims; bed and other articles, Mrs. John Andrew; clothing, Mrs. Terry Patterson; clothing, springs and table, Mrs. J. O. Youtsey; kitchen utensils and silver, Elizabeth Harris; dining table and chairs, J. B. Lawton; clothing, Mrs. Rose, Mrs. Clark, Mrs. William Tousey, and Mrs. John Hostetter; clothing and mattress, H. G. Miller.

Graves Electric Company will rewire the home and furnish rewiring materials free of charge.