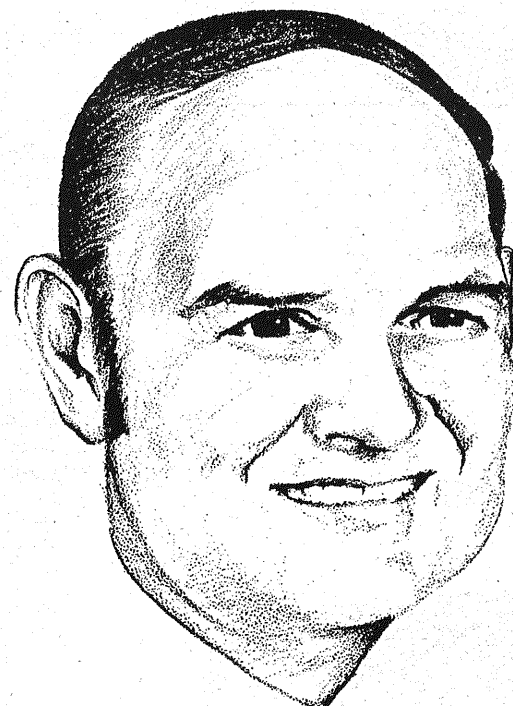
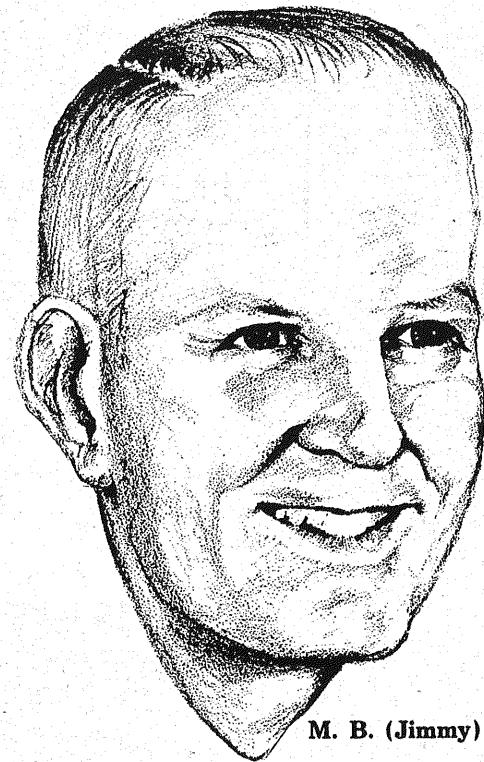




Christopher G. Sanders



John O. Campbell



M. B. (Jimmy) Cox



Richard Lee Williams

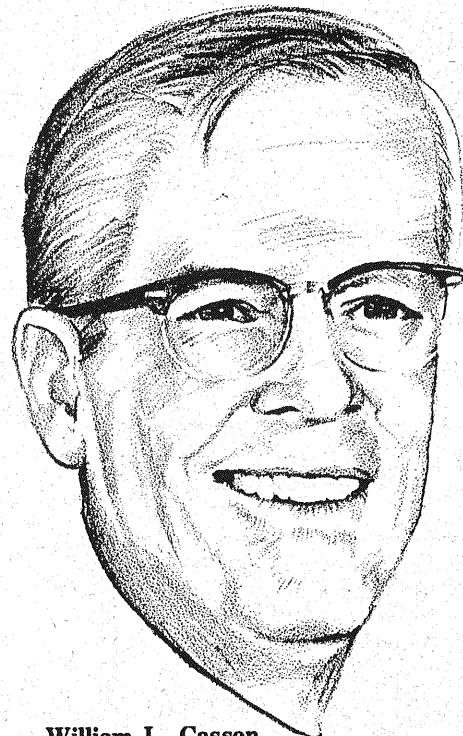


Roger A. Hubka



Joseph M. Chambers III

We Promise We Will Never Forget YOU Or YOURS!



William L. Casson

At one fifty-eight p. m., Thursday, July 5, 1973, the Kingman Fire Department responded to a fire call at the Doxel plant on Hilltop. A propane-filled railroad tank car was being unloaded when it caught fire, exploded, and hurled fragments up to a quarter-mile away. It sent flames into the afternoon sky to a height of 200 feet, killed three men immediately, brought fatal injuries to nine more and injured more than 100 people. Property damage in the area was tremendous--in excess of one million dollars, some said.

It was the worst disaster sustained by a fire-fighting unit in the history of Arizona. As this magazine's press time neared, 12 men were dead from the fire and explosion; and others were critical and confined to burn centers in Phoenix and Las Vegas.

It occasioned the saddest days in Kingman's and Mohave County's history. For while the loss in numbers was tremendous for a small community such as ours; the type of people gone made the disaster all the more tragic.

Dead in the first blast of the explosion were William L. Casson, district manager for the electric division of Citizens Utilities Company in Mohave County, and a former fire chief now serving as captain, number one; bakeryman and city zoning commission member M. B. (Jimmy) Cox, assistant fire chief; and young Roger

Hubka, a volunteer fireman who worked nearby the explosion site at the Double G Tire Company. In the two weeks which followed, the community's grief multiplied as death continued to call on the Kingman Fire Department.

Businessman Joe Chambers; a lieutenant in the fire department, died; as did Kingman High School principal and fireman Richard Lee Williams.

Death came to 28 year old Frank Steward (Butch) Henry, manager of the ICX trucking operations here and a fireman; and to Marvin Mast, manager of the Doxel plant who had lived here but one year.

Arthur Cleland Stringer, a 25 year old father of one and an employee of the fire department for but one month, died in Las Vegas; and city fire engineer Chris Sanders, who heroically loaded others into an ambulance before evacuating himself, expired in Phoenix.

Well known assistant city public works director John Campbell died in Phoenix on the eve of the opening of a Little League tournament here in which he took great and long (15 years) interest. And Don Webb, service station owner, fireman, Elks official, Rotarian and promising young community leader, died in the state's capitol city last week.

Allen Hansen, a member of the Arizona Highway Patrol and a fireman, and one of the community's most popular young men, died in Phoenix on July 19th.

There is no assurance but that the list of casualties may continue to grow, for others are critically hurt and burned.

And the grief of the wives and children, mothers and fathers, brothers, sisters and friends, continues to mount.

Local, state and federal officials will undoubtedly try to determine the cause of the explosion, and set up safeguards against it happening again. But while life must go on, and while things will eventually return to normal, the hurt and the needs of those left behind are very real indeed.

A Kingman Burn Fund has been set up to handle donations from those who wish to assist families of those who have died or were burned. Contributions may be made to that fund at the Valley National Bank, or by sending it to the Kingman Burn Fund, P. O. Box 271, Kingman, Arizona 86401.

Cash donations received directly by the Kingman Volunteer Fire Department are being disbursed through another fund, the Fire Department Aid Fund, established at the First

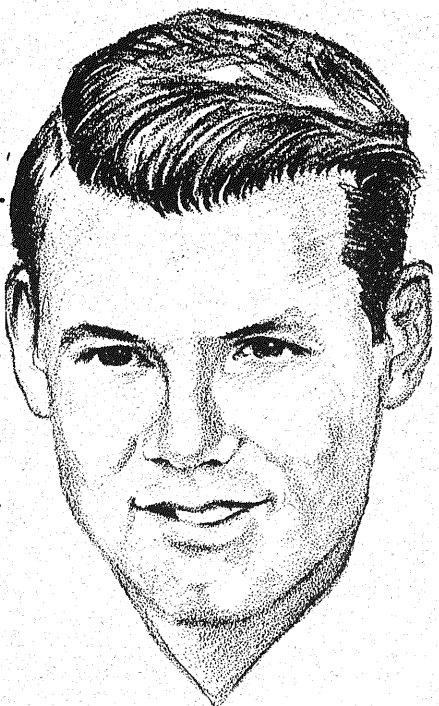
National Bank of Arizona, P. O. Box 1231, Kingman. This fund is concerned with the more immediate needs of the families and victims.

From all this tragedy and heart-break, surely must come something of value. We cannot sacrifice the lives and futures of 12 such wonderful men, without making sure that some lasting good comes of their brave example. Thus this tribute. It is but a small token of our esteem and affection for all our brothers and sisters in Mohave County, with the plea that we make our tomorrows more meaningful in their memory.

We can make a simple pledge not to forget them--or their loved ones left behind. And we can do this, quite simply, by repeating this little poem to ourselves, quite frequently, if you please

"I sought my soul,
But my soul I could not see.
I sought my God,
But He eluded me.
So I sought my brother,
And I found all three."

And in all the tomorrows, when we see our brother standing by the road, let's do our best to relieve his load. Cooperation, brotherly love, and mutual helpfulness on all our parts will be the most meaningful tribute or memorial we can pay to these wonderful men.



Arthur C. Stringer



Marvin E. Mast

Thank You Neighbors -

On behalf of the Kingman Fire Department, and all of the people of Kingman, I want to express our deepest thanks and gratitude to the Fire Departments and Firemen of Bullhead City, Mohave Valley, Lake Havasu City, the Truxton Canyon Indian Agency, and Needles, as well as other departments from throughout Arizona and California, for their assistance on July 5, 1973 when our department was decimated by an explosion and the ensuing fire. Doctors, police, ambulance drivers, and all emergency people, extended themselves beyond any reasonable call to duty. We thank God for your assistance; and hereby publicly express our gratitude and best wishes for your friendly spirit of cooperation and helpfulness to us in our hours of need.

Charles A. Pata
FIRE CHIEF



Donald G. Webb



Alan Hansen

MOHAVE Magazine Gratefully Acknowledges The Assistance Of The Following In The Presentation Of This Tribute, And Message To Our Friends And Neighbors.

- Mr. and Mrs. Gordon McKellips, Mohave Valley
- Mr. and Mrs. Pat Patterson, Chloride
- American Legion Post 14, Kingman
- Mr. and Mrs. Jim Devlin, Kingman
- Mr. and Mrs. James Carter, Kingman
- Mr. and Mrs. Eddie Myers, Kingman
- Mr. and Mrs. Bill Freiday, Kingman
- Mr. and Mrs. Gary Fancher, Needles, Calif.
- Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Pepiton, Kingman
- Mr. and Mrs. William Talley, Valentine
- Mr. and Mrs. Robert Lightfoot, Lake Havasu City
- Mr. and Mrs. Virgil Short, Big Sandy
- Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Tracy, Kingman
- Mrs. Willie McCasland, Kingman
- Mr. and Mrs. Norman Booth, Lake Havasu City
- Mr. and Mrs. Victor Hopeman, Kingman
- Mr. and Mrs. Larry Adams, Bullhead City
- Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Lum, Kingman
- Mr. and Mrs. Jack Ward, Bullhead City
- Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Wienke, Kingman
- Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Medlin, Bullhead City



Frank S. (Butch) Henry

This tribute, to the men who died as a result of injuries sustained July 5, 1973 in the explosion and fire at Kingman, Arizona; is countywide in nature. Artist Robert Green of Kingman, who was commissioned to produce likenesses of the dead men from photographs, has asked that his honorarium be donated to the Kingman Fire Department, and be earmarked to buy a burn-proof suit of clothing for a fireman. In accordance

with his wishes; on behalf of patrons whose names appear herein; and in behalf of the Lake Havasu City HERALD, Mohave County MINER and Mohave Valley NEWS, the newspapers which carry MOHAVE Magazine as a supplement, a donation in the amount of \$300 will be forwarded to the fire department for the purchase of two burn-proof suits of fire fighting clothing