

Resolution for Graham

Jean Taylor

Carl

Ernest

Deceased

CENTRAL SQUARE

Sleeping mother, 2 sons die in fire

Arson squad probing 'suspicious' blaze

By Paul Hirshson
Globe Staff

CAMBRIDGE — A child's bicycle, with training wheels still attached, lay in a front yard here partly covered by a charred mattress and soggy clothing, a graphic reminder of the early morning fire yesterday that killed a mother and her two small sons.

The fire broke out about 1:30 yesterday morning in a six-family apartment house on Washington Street near Central Square. Killed were Jean Taylor, 30, and her sons, Earl, 7, and Ernest, 5.

The dead woman's husband, Elinor Telisnor a bus driver, 32, who was working an overnight shift, arrived at the apartment during the blaze, and had to be restrained by police. He was hospitalized until midafternoon yesterday.

Fire officials late yesterday were still investigating, but, according to Edward Fowler of the Fire Department arson squad, the cause is listed as "undetermined but suspicious."

Last September, a small fire was started in some mail in the front hall, but was extinguished by a tenant before any damage had been done. Arson investigators questioned tenants and others, but no suspect was found. Investigators are seeking to determine whether there is a connection between that fire and the fatal fire yesterday.

According to the building's owner, Richard Lovell, a building superintendent from Boston, the family had lived in the apartment about nine years. Jean Taylor



Globe staff photo/Barry Chin

Investigators examine mattresses removed from the scene of a fatal fire on Washington Street in Cambridge.

continued to use her own name after she and Telisnor were married there.

"I saw her get married right up in that living-room," Lovell said, pointing to the burned out second floor window, as a work crew began boarding up the building. About 10 other persons fled the fire without injury.

Fowler said investigators determined that the building was equipped with smoke detectors apparently in working order. "The first firefighter up the stairs heard the smoke detector in the hallway," Fowler said, "but I don't know if the one in the apartment was working."

Officials said all three victims were found in their beds, and ap-

parently had died in their sleep.

Fire officials estimated the damage at about \$125,000.

A downstairs tenant, Ernest Desrameaux, who works for a building cleaning firm, described how he was awakened by a neighbor. "At 1:30 in the morning, the neighbor on the second floor knocked on my door. I got dressed and went outside. I found the firemen in position, heading for the second floor."

Desrameaux said he knew the family slightly, and would speak to the children as they passed on the street. "It's tragic," he said, "this guy in one day lost his whole family, wife and two kids. It's terrible for him."

February 29, 1988

Councillor Graham

Whereas: This City Council was deeply saddened upon learning of the tragic deaths of Jean Taylor and her two young sons, Earl and Ernest; and

Whereas: This young family died as a result of a suspicious blaze that broke out early Wednesday morning February 24, 1988, at their Washington Street address; now therefore be it

Resolved: That this City Council go on record extending its deepest sympathies to Mr. Elinor Telisnor at this time of personal tragedy; and be it further

Resolved: That the City Clerk be & hereby is requested to prepare a suitably engrossed copy of this resolution on behalf of the entire City Council



City of Cambridge

6.
IN CITY COUNCIL

COUNCILLOR GRAHAM

FEBRUARY 29, 1988

- WHEREAS: This City Council was deeply saddened upon learning of the tragic deaths of Jean Taylor and her two sons, Earl and Ernest; and
- WHEREAS: This young family died as a result of a suspicious blaze that broke out early Wednesday morning February 24, 1988, at their Washington Street address; now therefore be it
- RESOLVED: That this City Council go on record extending its deepest sympathies to Mr. Elinor Telisnor at this time of personal tragedy; and be it further
- RESOLVED: That the City Clerk be and hereby is requested to prepare a suitably engrossed copy of this resolution on behalf of the entire City Council.

In City Council February 29, 1988.
Adopted by the affirmative vote of 8 members.
Attest:- Joseph E. Connarton, City Clerk.

A true copy;

ATTEST:-

Joseph E. Connarton, City Clerk.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Joseph E. Connarton". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "J" and "C".

Order #6 S-120

C. Graham re: resolutions on the tragic deaths of Jean Taylor & her sons Earl & Ernest as a result of a suspicious fire on February 24, 1988.

In City Council,

February 29, 1988

C. Graham
V/V
A