



Flames from blast of exploding gas heater destroyed this chair in motel where Mr. and Mrs. Donald Abbott of Ashland, Mass., received serious burns Sunday.

Condition Serious

Mass. Couple Burned in Moretown As Motel Room Heater Explodes

MORETOWN — An Ashland, Mass., couple were badly burned Sunday morning when a gas heater exploded in their room at the Caravan Motel on Middlesex Rd. here. They were taken to Heaton Hospital.

Injured were Mr. and Mrs. Donald Abbott of 170 Prospect St., Ashland, who were described by officials as in their early 30s.

At the hospital, Dr. Henri Pache said their condition was serious but not critical, although they suffered extensive surface burns over their entire bodies.

The Abbotts were treated at the scene by Dr. Charles E. Harwood of Waterbury, regional medical examiner.

Waterbury firemen extinguished the blaze, which burned out two rooms of the motel. Force of the blast blew out the rear wall of the unit and furnishings were destroyed by the flames.

Mr. and Mrs. William Jorgensen own the motel.

Jorgensen said Abbott told him he had turned on the heater and then had forgotten to light it.

Mrs. Abbott reportedly struck a match to light a cigarette and apparently the room burst into flames. It happened at 8:30 a.m.

The couple checked in at about 10 p.m. Saturday. Jorgensen said that when he first heard the blast, he thought nothing of it because there had been considerable blasting for the new highway.

But soon he heard screams and people shouting.

The couple, their clothing burn-

ed from their bodies, dashed from the building and jumped into their car.

Jorgensen covered them with clean sheets while awaiting a doctor and ambulances.

An official said that "had there been a pilot light on the heater," there would have been no explosion.

The incident is being investigated by the state fire marshal, Chester M. Kirby.

State police reported that the Abbotts were en route to Winoski to pick up their two daughters, Laurie, 11, and Linda, 5, who were visiting the Reginald Allens of 11 George St.

A member of the Allen family said the two girls probably will remain with them until their parents are released from the hospital.

MONDAY - JULY 14, 1958

Gas Explodes In Motel Burning Two



A couple who suffered severe burns after an accumulation of gas exploded in their cabin at the Caravan Motel on the Middlesex road, are reported as more comfortable this morning at Henton hospital, however their condition is reported as still serious.

Mr. and Mrs. Donald Abbot of 170 Prospect st., Ashland, Mass., who spent the night in unit 5 of the Caravan Motel suffered first and second degree burns. The couple are in their early 30's.

At the hospital, Dr. Henri Pache said their condition is serious but not critical although they suffered extensive surface burns over their entire bodies. "They are fairly comfortable," he said, "and will be hospitalized for at least two weeks if there are no complications."

They were removed to the hospital in two ambulances from the Perkins Co. in Waterbury after first being treated at the scene by Dr. Charles E. Harwood of Waterbury, regional medical examiner.

The Waterbury Fire Department was called to extinguish the resulting blaze which badly gutted the interior of two rooms in the motel. The force of the blast blew out the entire rear walls of the unit. The furnishings were destroyed in the flames.

The motel is owned and operated by Mr. and Mrs. William Jorgensen who have run the establishment for nearly four years.

According to Jorgensen, Abbot said he had turned on the heater and forgot to light it. Mrs. Abbot struck a match to light a cigarette

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Gas Explodes

(Continued from Page One) and apparently the rooms burst into flames. He said the couple checked in at about 10 p. m. Saturday night.

Jorgensen said that when he first heard the blast he thought nothing of it because there has been considerable blasting in the area for the new highway. His first intimation that something was wrong was when he heard screams and people shouting "fire."

According to Jorgensen, the couple, their clothing completely burned from their bodies, dashed from the building and jumped into their car. Mrs. Abbot was screaming with pain although her husband remained comparatively calm.

Jorgensen said he immediately covered them with clean sheets pending the arrival of a doctor and the ambulances.

The incident is being investigated by the office of the State fire marshal, Chester M. Kirby.

EXPLODING GAS in a cabin at the Caravan Motel on the Middlesex road caused a Massachusetts couple to sustain severe burns on their bodies early yesterday. A report said the husband turned on the heater, then forgot to light it. The explosion occurred when one of them struck a match to light a cigarette. (Lizzari photo).

Condition of Mass. Couple Burned In Motel 'Very Serious'

MONTPELIER — The condition of Mr. and Mrs. Donald Abbott of Ashland, Mass., was reported Wednesday at Heaton Hospital as still "very serious." Mr. and Mrs. Abbott suffered first, second and

third degree burns early Sunday morning when a gas heater exploded in the quarters in which they were staying at the Caravan Motel on the Montpelier Waterbury Rd. Mr. Abbott, who is 28 and his wife, who is 30, were on their way to Winooski to get their two children who were staying with friends, when they stopped at the motel Saturday night.

THURSDAY - JULY 17, 1958

Burned Couple Are 'Holding Their Own'

It was reported at Heaton hospital today that the condition of Mr. and Mrs. Donald Abbot of Ashland, Mass., remained "about the same," that they were "holding their own" and were "quite comfortable."

The couple suffered first, second and third degree burns early Sunday morning when a gas heater exploded in the quarters in which they were staying at the Caravan Motel on the Waterbury-Montpelier road.

Mr. Abbot, 28, and his wife, who is 30, were on their way to Winoski to get their two children who were staying with friends, when they stopped at the motel Saturday night.

Burned Couple's Condition Is Still Reported Serious

MONTPELIER — The condition of Mr. and Mrs. Donald Abbot of Ashland, Mass., who were injured early last Sunday when a gas heater exploded in their motel room, was reported as still serious Friday by Heaton Hospital officials.

Bay State Wife Dies of Burns From Motel Blast

MONTPELIER — An Ashland, Mass., wife who was badly burned when a gas heater exploded in a Moretown motel a week ago, died Sunday afternoon at Heaton Hospital here.

The woman, Mrs. Helen Abbott, 30, of 170 Prospect St., Ashland, was on her honeymoon when the accident occurred last Sunday.

Her husband, Donald, 28, also badly injured in the blast, remains in critical condition at the hospital.

The explosion occurred in a room of the Caravan Motel in Moretown.

Mr. and Mrs. Abbott suffered burns over 90 per cent of their bodies. They were treated at the scene and then taken to Heaton Hospital.

The two were planning to go to Winooski the next day to pick up Mrs. Abbott's children by a previous marriage, Laurie, 11, and Linda, 5, who were visiting the Reginald Allens of 11 George St.

MONDAY - JULY 21, 1958

Woman Hurt In Motel Dies

A wife on her honeymoon died Sunday afternoon at Heaton hospital as the result of burns suffered a week before at the Caravan Hotel on Rte. 2 between Middlesex and Waterbury.

Mrs. Helen Abbott, 30, of Ashland, Mass., succumbed to burns over 90 per cent of her body, after a week in the hospital.

She and her husband, Donald, 28, had stopped at the Motel Saturday night. A stove exploded Sunday morning after it was believed Mr. Abbott had turned it on but failed to light it. Mrs. Abbott lit a match to light a cigarette, and the explosion followed.

Both she and her husband were burned over 90 per cent of their bodies. His condition remains critical at the hospital today.

The couple was enroute to Winoski to pick up Mrs. Abbott's two children by a previous marriage, Laurie 11 and Linda 5, who were visiting the Reginald Allens of that city.

Mrs. Helen Ada Abbot was the daughter of Frank and Jessie (McMillen) Douglas. Besides her husband she is survived by two children and her mother.

The body was taken last night to Cook's funeral home in Framingham, Mass., where funeral services will be held.

Husband Dies Of Burns Two Days After Wife

Morning Press Bureau

MONTPELIER — Donald Abbott, 28, of Ashland, Mass., died at Heaton Hospital Tuesday of burns suffered July 13 when a gas heater exploded in a Moretown motel.

His wife, Helen, 30, injured in the same blast, died Sunday.

The couple, on a honeymoon, stopped at the Caravan Motel on U.S. Route 2 in Moretown, about six miles from Montpelier.

Authorities did not say what caused the explosion. Mr. and Mrs. Abbott were burned over 90 per cent. of their bodies.

They had been planning to go to Winoochi to pick up two of Mrs. Abbott's children by a previous marriage.

The children, Laurie, 11, and Linda, 5, were visiting in Winoochi.

WEDNESDAY - JULY 23, 1958

Husband Dies Of Fire That Claimed Wife

The second victim of a Moretown motel explosion died yesterday just before noon at Heaton hospital.

Donald Abbott, 28, succumbed to burns over 90 per cent of his body received Sunday, July 13, when a gas heater exploded in the Caravan Motel on the Middlesex-Waterbury road. His wife, Mrs. Helen Abbott, 30, died last Sunday after a week in the hospital.

The couple was on a honeymoon trip and had stopped at the motel Saturday night while enroute to Winooski to pick up the two children of Mrs. Abbott by a previous marriage. The youngsters were visiting in Winooski.

Mr. Abbott had turned on the gas heater but failed to light it. On Sunday morning Mrs. Abbott lit a match to light a cigarette, and the explosion followed, authorities calculated. Both were treated at the scene and then rushed to Heaton hospital.

The body of the deceased was taken to Framingham, Mass., last night, to Cooks Funeral Home where services will be held.

Donald Hugh Abbott was born Dec. 20, 1930, in Framingham, the son of Arthur and Cophia (Robertson) Abbott. He was employed by the Dennison Manufacturing Co., in Ashland, Mass., as a shipper.

His parents and a brother, Stewart Abbott of Northboro, Mass., were in Montpelier at the time of his death and returned to Massachusetts last evening.