

Fireman Leo Morris of No. 1 was temporarily overcome by fumes and smoke and after treatment by the Rescue Squad was taken home but he soon returned to the scene. Fire Engineer James Roderick suffered a twisted ankle and James Roderick of No. 1, Manuel Aresta of No. 5 and Frank Aresta of No. 4 were cut on the hands by flying glass. They continued their work after treatment.

HIGHER VALUE PLACED

Dr. Murchison's brother, Dr. Claudius T. Murchison, who had arrived at his Wellfleet home, off Gull Pond Road, some days earlier, was inclined to put a far higher figure on the total loss and said that the value of the paintings destroyed would be at least \$250,000. He said that apart from an almost complete collection of paintings by artists who painted in Provincetown from the early days down to the present, there were fine examples of Reuben, Gainsborough and Tintoretto.

Long a patron of art and a past president and director of the Provincetown Art Association, Dr. Murchison's collection of canvases by Cape End painters is almost a listing of the best who worked here and he always sought to get the best of each. There were paintings by Frederick Waugh, George Elmer Browne, Charles Hawthorne, Max Bohm, Ernest Caliga, John Noble, Ed Dickinson, Gordon Grant, Reeves Euler, John Whorf, Karl Knaths, Charles Heinz, LaForce Bailey, Ross Moffett, Frank Desche, Gerrit Beneker, Jerry Farnsworth, Courtney Allen, Helen Sawyer, Harold Lund, Pauline Palmer, William Paxton, Vollian Rann, Bruce McKain, Oscar Geiberich, John Frazier, John Foster, Phil Malicoat, Henry Hensche, Ada Gilmore, etchings by W. H. W. Bicknell, drawings by Dorothy Lake Gregory, prints by Tod Lindenmuth, watercolors by William Zorach. Recently a fine oil portrait of Rear Admiral Donald B. MacMillan by Samuel Oppenheim had been added to the collection.

OTHER COLLECTIONS

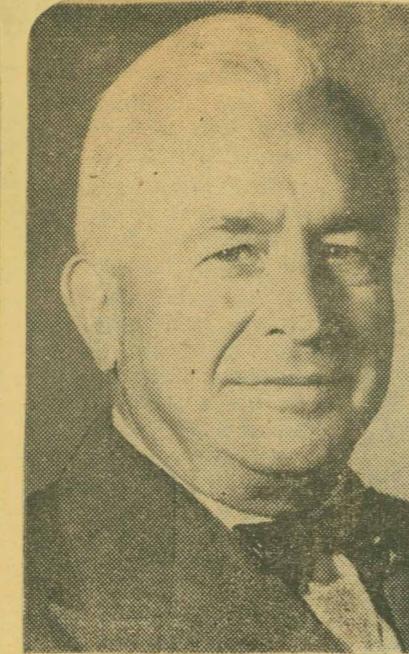
But Dr. and Mrs. Murchison had also assembled very fine collections of Venetian and Florentine glass as well as a large number of superb Oriental and Chinese rugs. Much of the home was furnished with priceless antiques. He had a very large library of fine first and limited editions in de luxe issues and special bindings.

However, Dr. Murchison's brother explained that the heaviest loss is one not visible in the general destruction. Dr. Murchison had one of the finest libraries on psychology to be found in the world but even more important were his records to which he had devoted many years of intensive study and work, developing a system of cross references for use by libraries, integrating psychological and sociological subject matter from all parts of the world, chiefly from Europe. He was nearing the completion of the great task, Dr. Murchison's brother said, when the fire destroyed the work of a lifetime.

It was learned that there was \$90,000 insurance on the building and \$127,000 on the contents. Some clothes, books, records and personal belongings were saved but these were negligible.

Chief White said that fire broke out again among the books Tuesday night but was quickly extinguished by a standby engine. In commenting, Chief White paid high tribute to the efforts of the firemen who fought such a hard battle, though a losing one because of the many hours of head-start of the fire. He said that the efforts of the Red Cross canteen workers who had hot coffee and doughnuts on hand for the firemen were especially comforting.

"The Castle" was originally built some 30 years ago by Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Hollingsworth of Pittsfield, close friends of the late Augustus Smith. It was later sold to Fred Dyer who was attached to the ram, Katarin,



DR. CARL MURCHISON of Provincetown, former Clark University professor.

which was stationed in Provincetown harbor during the Spanish-American War. While on that duty Mr. Dyer became interested in Provincetown and returned years later to become associated in the fisheries business with Joseph Rich, Josh Paine and others. Mr. Dyer acquired the hilltop mansion and later it became the property of Mr. Paine who added the east end wing and the rumpus room.

THE DEVASTATING FIRE that destroyed "The Castle" home of Dr. and Mrs. Carl Murchison is still the main concern in town. The Murchisons are due back from Quito, Ecuador, on Friday and then more authentic information will be available. It was learned this morning that among the priceless art treasures lost in the fire were a number of paintings by the old masters inherited by Mrs. Murchison from her stepmother. One in particular was by Andrea del Sarto, termed by Browning in one of his poems as "The faultless painter." A museum once offered Mrs. Murchison \$60,000 for it, admitting that it was worth considerably more than that amount but no large bid was possible. So Mrs. Murchison decided to keep it. A notable canvas by Childe Hassam, a portrait of Dr. Murchison by Bernard Keyes of Boston and a canvas by George Mooreland were among those lost. An error was made by the photo-finisher who turned out the picture on page one of this issue in reversing the negative in making the print. Actually the east wing, instead of the west, is shown.

TUESDAY, MAY 8, 1956

Ex-Clark Professor To Rebuild Home

Special to The Gazette

PROVINCETOWN, May 8—

Dr. Carl Murchison, former Worcester educator, whose home, art collection, and psychology library were destroyed in a dawn fire May 1, plans to rebuild as soon as possible.

"I'll have to forget about the paintings and books, of course," he said.

"I spent 35 years collecting them. You just can't do something like that twice. You keep comparing the second collection with the first. Anyway, I don't have the time," he said.

The former psychology professor at Clark University, Worcester, was traveling in Ecuador when defective wiring in a closed attic touched off explosions and a fire in the 25-room Portuguese-villa type home.

Named "Pilgrims' Landing," it faced Massachusetts Bay from a hilltop opposite Provincetown Inn.

"The new house will be modernistic, just as different from the old as it can be," he said.

"The ruins are still smoking, so I haven't been able to look

at what's left. Only 15 of our 150 paintings were saved," he said.

\$250,000 LOSS

The house held representative works of nearly all members of the Provincetown art colony. He set the loss at more than \$250,000, only partly insured.

Many of the artists are dead now, he said, and finding other paintings by them would be impossible.

Dr. Murchison edits five psychological journals, each published four times a year.

He is now working on them in his garage.

His library contained 500 complete sets of psychology journals, some sets containing as many as 200 volumes. It represented practically all such journals ever published.

"I'll just put it out of my mind," he said.

Now living in an overnight cottage, the Murchisons plan to tear down the ruins of the old house in about two months, and then consult an architect about the new one.

It, too, will be called "Pilgrims' Landing."

Around These Parts

By Frank Crotty

June 1958

DREAM HOUSE—Saturday night I toured the new \$250,000 dream house of former Clark University Prof. and Mrs. Carl Murchison in Provincetown. Started 13 months ago, the work is expected to be completed sometime in August. However, most of it is done and the Murchisons are living in it. The place is located high on a dune in the west end of the town, across from the Provincetown Inn.

You probably remember that their Portuguese villa was destroyed by flames May 1, 1956. It was a landmark. In the fire, they lost a fabulous art collection and his psychology research library, which was probably the most complete in the world. He is editor of five psychology journals.

What a dwelling! I was profoundly impressed. Walter Gropius and his Architects Collaborative of Cambridge spent eight months just drawing the plans.

Dr. Gropius was formerly head of the architecture department at Harvard University and founded the Bauhaus School of Architecture in Weimar, Germany.

The house is spacious and on two levels. It's completely air-conditioned so the Murchisons can have any temperature desired at any time of the year. A glass-

enclosed terrace with slate floors runs around two sides. There are three bedrooms and five ceramic-tiled bathrooms. Most of the paneling is teakwood and most of the rooms have wall-to-wall carpeting. I nearly froze in their cold storage room for furs.

Every room is soundproofed and there are loudspeakers throughout the place controlled from a central point. These are for radio, hi-fi and TV. There are also 10 telephones and an answering system.

All furniture was designed by Dr. Gropius and Dr. Murchison and made in Europe. There are chairs which can be adjusted for short legged or long-legged people.

There's an auxiliary power plant in case there is trouble with the Cape Cod electricity ... as there frequently is during storms. There is also a water-purifying system.

The design of the main staircase is reminiscent of an abstract painting. It took a crew of from two to four men three months to construct. Over the staircase are six circular lights in an asymmetrical pattern. The total effect is most impressive.

The interior decoration, done by Research Designers Inc., a subsidiary of Architects Collaborative, is gorgeous. Over the fireplace and on the hearth is superb tan and white Italian marble. The fireplace bricks, which are a dark tan, were especially manufactured for it in Ohio. The golden tan living room rug was made and dyed in Puerto Rico.

Still to be built is an outdoor swimming pool with a seven-foot glass wall to shut out the chilly east wind, and a dancing terrace. For the terrace marble chips will be set in cement and highly polished. This will be near the pool and the whole thing will be waterproof.

There's also a two-car garage and, oh, so many things.

Dr. Murchison's right hand was in a bandage and he told me he had just returned from the Leahy Clinic in Boston where he had undergone an operation to straighten out two retracted fingers.

I was surprised that I did not see one painting in the whole establishment and I remarked it. The old house was loaded with them.

He fingered his chin thoughtfully for a moment before replying.

"We'll probably get some later," he said. "I don't know."

A year ago last month when he was telling me about the plans for the place I asked him how many rooms it was going to have