



FIRE FILLS COUNTY HILLS AGAIN

The hills above Brea burn in the second fire in a month in the north county. In top left and bottom photos taken by News Tribune photographer Pete Henderson, the hills are ablaze in the Olinda Village area near Brea city limits. In the top right photo, taken by News Tribune photographer Jess Andresen Jr., a woman carries a pet bird in a wrapped cage from her home on Lilac Street, also in the Olinda Village.

The fire began about 1:30 a.m. yesterday near Sleepy Hollow, the spokesman said. The cause of the blaze is still under investigation. The fire burned one home in Sleepy Hollow. By 11 a.m. the fire had moved in-

to Orange County and was approaching Olinda Village, a Brea community located in Carbon Canyon. About 50 homes in the village were evacuated as firefighters stopped the blaze within a few feet of homes at the border of the community.

None of the Olinda homes was damaged, but residents had not been allowed back in this morning.

The fire moved down the canyon, burning past Carbon Canyon Regional Park and destroying a home across the street from the park.

The blaze continued west, burning to the intersection of Valencia Drive and Birch Road. It also moved into the oil fields north of Lambert Road and in Tonner Canyon.

Because of heavy smoke and firefighting equipment in the area, officials closed the 57 Freeway from the Riverside Freeway to the Pomona Freeway at 8 p.m.



KEN HIVELEY / Los Angeles Times

Firefighter runs toward home but was unable to keep it from being completely destroyed. Flames threatened homes in Brea late Sunday.

Fire Skirts Canyon East of Brea

Evacuee: 'This One Was the Closest Call'

By JACK BOETTNER, Times Staff Writer

As Joan Lewis fled Sunday through a heavy blanket of smoke that engulfed Carbon Canyon Road east of Brea, she thought for sure that her home would go up in flames.

"The fire was rushing toward our house, on the edge of Olinda Village," said Lewis, an elementary school teacher. "It was within 50 feet of our house when I gathered up some special things and got out.

"I grabbed family pictures, some antiques, my jewelry and my daughter's wedding dress.

"I just didn't see any way that the

house could be saved because the flames were raging so very close. My husband Royce and son John stayed behind to try to protect the house."

Lewis talked to her husband on the telephone later Sunday and found that the home had been spared.

Lewis said brush fires are nothing new to Olinda Village residents.

"I have seen nine of them," she said. "But this one was probably the closest call."

Lewis was one of about 40 persons who voluntarily evacuated

their expensive Olinda Village homes Sunday afternoon and took refuge in the Brea Community Center as a grass and brush fire, whipped by heavy winds, swept out of San Bernardino County into Carbon Canyon.

The fire skirted Olinda Village, 200 homes, and some horse stables a quarter of a mile away.

Barbara Smith, another evacuee from the village, said: "I saw the fire coming down the hill toward our house. It was a frightening sight. Police advised people to get out.

"I ran across the street and got my father (Robert Gibson, 93) and my mother-in-law . . . and we all got out of there together. I just took some personal papers with me."

The Brea Community Center was prepared to take care of evacuees overnight.

Said Christy Mulhery, a Brea city employee: "We just sent out for some hot dogs and hamburgers and malts. The Young Americans (a singing group) put on a show.

"We've got plenty of cots if they (village residents) have to stay all night. No one seems to know when they can return to the canyon."

The Red Cross combined with the city to provide services for the evacuees.

Canyon blaze backfired!

Thursday, November 20, 1980



CARBON CANYON FIRE - is on the move toward the small community of Olinda Village as a California Division of Forrestry spotter plane flies by. The fire

which started Sunday afternoon burned 8,500 acres. Only three homes were destroyed and only minor injuries were reported.

just within the San Bernardino County area.

The cause of the fire is under investigation. Lt. Frank Rogers of the Brea Police Department said that the residents of the communities of Olinda Village and Hollydale Mobile Home Park were being warned to evacuate Carbon Canyon Sunday. Some stayed however. Residents of condominiums north of Lambert Road were evacuated as flames headed south and west, being stopped at the Orange Freeway.

Those who were on the fire line said that the fire moved from east to west along the north side of Carbon

Canyon Road and barely missed Olinda Village, reportedly charring some yards.

About 40 of those evacuated were given temporary shelter at the Brea civic-cultural center, where the "Young Americans"

vocal group entertained to help keep up the spirits of those who feared they had lost their homes.

The "Young Americans" have recently located their headquarters in Brea.

Also, the American Red Cross helped provide food and accommodations for those temporarily left without homes.

Vehicles jammed the area around Brea Mall and in front of Brea Olinda High School.

Lambert Road, State College Boulevard and the Orange Freeway were blocked off in places. The nor-

thbound lane of the Orange Freeway was blocked off Monday morning as well as Sunday night.



News-Times photo by Rod Boren

Canyon blaze



Canyon blaze backfired!

Glow from the Carbon Canyon-Diamond Bar fire were seen in the night sky over the Puente Hills Monday night about 10:30 or 11 p.m., but the residents breathed easier as the fire was reported under control at 6 p.m.

It had moved from the area of the Orange Freeway toward Diamond Bar but did not burn any homes.

Sunday night the fire was stopped just east of the Orange Freeway and north of Lambert Road at the rear of the Somerset condominiums and the

northern edge of the developed part of Brea.

It jogged memories of residents who recalled the fire on Eucalyptus in the early 60s and the later fire in the hills north of Brea which interrupted the now defunct Bonanza Days celebration in the late 60s. The freeway area where the fire occurred was burned over several years ago.

The final figure for the damage included 8,500 acres in Carbon Canyon and Tonner



AFTERMATH OF FIRE

By The News Tribune Staff

As the fire roared through dry brush in the canyons and hills between Brea and Yorba Linda, residents of both communities watched the approaching smoke and flames and prepared for possible evacuation.

Residents of Carbon Canyon trying to return to their homes were turned away by police officers, who set up a roadblock at Valencia Drive and Birch Road as smoke blocked Carbon Canyon Road.

A few hours later the fire burned right up to the intersection and the roadblocks were moved further away on Valencia and Birch.

Olinda Village, in Carbon Canyon, was inundated with smoke as flames crept down the hills surrounding the small Brea community.

Residents calmly packed household items into automobiles, hosed their roofs or stood before their homes watching fire and police vehicles rumbiling through their normally quiet streets.

Behind Laursen's Arabians, a stable located on Copa de Oro on the northwest end of the village, the hills were almost completely masked by smoke. In the eerie, unnatural darkness, almost the only clearly distinguishable things were a ragged line of flame along the hillside and a few trees that had become torches.

The horses, apparently not threatened by the fire, stood quietly in their corrals.

Shortly after 2 p.m., police ordered an official evacuation of the homes. Several families gathered at Olinda School and at the small shopping center near Carbon Canyon Road.

Jack and Dottie Blanton said they weren't even aware of the problem until a granddaughter in New Jersey, who had heard of the fires over the news, called to find out if they were safe.

"I said it couldn't be near us," said Mrs. Blanton. "After we hung up we looked out the window and there it was, all but in our back

yard."

Twenty minutes later the official evacuation was called.

In preparing to leave, Mrs. Blanton said she grabbed her purse,

any money in the house, jewelry, family pictures, a bit of clothing and plane tickets the couple had purchased.



News Tribune Photo by Jess Anderson Jr

TIME OUT DURING EVACUATION FOR REASSURING HUG

A family on Lilac Lane gets ready to abandon area



FLAMES DESTROY THE HOMER FERRAN HOME ON CARBON CANYON
The family escaped with son, dog, bird and the clothes on their BACK.



News Tribune Photos by Jess Andresson Jr.

AFTERMATH OF A FIRESTORM

The smoke cleared out of Carbon Canyon yesterday, leaving behind the charred remains of a brush fire that swept through the area Sunday. On left, the blackened contents, including a car and a motorcycle, are nearly all that remain of a garage behind the Homer Farren residence. Located on Santa Fe Energy Co. property across the road from Carbon Canyon Regional Park, the Farrens' home was burned to the ground. Homer and Betty Farren, and their 14-year-old son Craig, escaped with their dog, cockatiel and the clothes they were wearing. On right, a bare hill and charred vegetation overlook the northwest side of Olinda Village.

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LINE OF FLAMES APPROACHES OLINDA VILLAGE HOMES

Fire-threatened families remain calm

A few yards away, Jim and Dorothy Kindell ate candy bars and drank Cokes from the liquor store as they waited to return to their home.

"We have lived here 12 years, but a fire never came this close before," said Mrs. Kindell. "I just walked away from it. I didn't take anything but clothes and our Bibles.

"We're going to wait right here until they say it's OK to come back," she continued. "We would never panic. We have so much faith in our fire department and a lot of faith in God, too. He would never put us through something we can't handle."

Meanwhile, firefighters and residents at the north end of the village fought off flames as they approached homes located next to the open hills.

Olinda Village resident Greg Korver, 19, helped battle the blaze behind one home.

"For a while we couldn't see a foot in front of us," said Korver, his glasses and bare back and arms splattered with pink fire extinguisher fluid.

"They cut it off right at the back line of the property. The fence posts burned but it didn't get any further," he said.

A wild deer, terrified by the fire, dashed through the back yard past the firefighters, he said.

Across the street from that home, another man took time out from watering his roof to take potshots with a pellet gun at another refugee from the hills — a large rat.

As she watched the smoke billow skyward and breathed the choking air, Mary Wallin, of 17321 Chicago St., Yorba Linda, was quietly optimistic, though apprehensive.

"This is as close as it's ever been," she said, recalling a blaze that burned to within a few blocks of her home two years ago.

"I'm waiting to see if the fire department shows up. If they tell us to get out, I guess we'll go. I hope it doesn't get that far. You see the fire and you know it's there. You think what to take out of your home. I keep thinking it's not going to happen to us," she said.

Other residents in the neighborhood expressed similar sentiments.

They packed clothes and other belongings into their cars, always keeping an eye on the smoke and ready to move if the flames came over the hill near the Diemer Filtration Plant.

A young couple strolling toward the plant with beers in hand were called back by a Brea police officer who lived in the neighborhood.

Mike McKee, fire information office for the Orange County Fire Department, said he spotted a German shepherd dog nearly surrounded by flames. He put the dog in his truck and drove it to safety.

The 80-pound dog was so grateful for its rescue it crawled into McKee's lap while he drove.

Barbara Kelley, who lives near El Rodeo Riding Club which is across Carbon Canyon Road from the regional park, lost her home in the blaze.

"We lost everything," she said. Ms. Kelley stayed at the club during the fire to tend to the horses which also remained.

"It was so full of smoke and fire here that you couldn't see. The horses were nervous but a lot just stood and watched the fire. Except for a few kick wounds and burned feet, the horses are OK," she said.

Two residents whose homes were spared by the fire were cleaning up the debris.

Frank Donnell of 2389 E. Sweetwater Drive said he and his wife never left.

"I wasn't scared but my wife was a little apprehensive," he said. The put their clothes and valuables in the two family cars and were ready to leave. They watered their roof and front yard to protect it from hot embers.

"We were lucky because the wind shifted just before the fire came our way," he said.

One row of condominiums separated the Donnell home from the fire.

One resident whose condominium was in that northern row, Marc Henry of 2373 Somerset, said he left at 5:15 p.m. yesterday as soon as firefighters asked him to leave.

"There didn't seem to be anything we could do," he said. He stayed with friends in Diamond Bar, which had fires of its own, and returned about 12:15 this morning. A fire truck with three firefighters was stationed on the street. Firefighters slept in sleeping bags on tops of hoses.

When asked if the fire soured him on the area, Henry, who has lived there since August, said emphatically, "not at all."

In Carbon Canyon, a few whiffs of smoke remain from yesterday's fire.

Areas of charred vegetation are mingled with other patches of brush that were uncut, evidence of a blaze that skipped through the canyon.

A few fire crews remain in Olinda Village mopping up what remains of the hotspots. A helicopter helped the crews by picking out the hotspots as seen from the air.

At Olinda School which had 240 students, 35 of the children attended school today. The rest are at Arovista School in Brea.

A group of 19 fourth-, fifth-, and sixth-graders supervised by teacher Joan Lewis, spent the morning writing stories about what happened to them yesterday, sharing the stories with other

students and drawing pictures.

Jason Yarella, a fifth-grader, said he put out a bale of hay with a garden hose at the nearby residence.

Cara Klizbe, also a fifth-grader, said, "This morning, my (home's) grass was all black and my roof caught on fire."

A fourth-grader, Aaron Andrews, said that his family left the front door open when leaving during the blaze and that the fire left an ash layer that was about two inches thick inside the house.

A teacher at the school said that there were many animals running through the village during the fire.

Roger Thrall, who lives in northwest Olinda Village, said, "Well, the fire's out and the house is still standing, that's the best news." The only thing that was burned at his house was about a half dozen shingles.

Thrall said that he and his family returned home from church just after the authorities called for the evacuation of Olinda Village (early afternoon yesterday) and his wife and daughter were ordered to evacuate but that he was allowed to stay.

He also said that the firefighters lined up at the back of his house putting themselves between the fire and the house. They would hose down the fire and then hose down the house.

"All of a sudden I smelled

something funny and my hair was on fire so I turned the hose on that." Thrall said he then went back to hosing the house.

For those in Carbon Canyon who had to leave their homes, an evacuation center was set up at Pioneer Hall.

City workers from the Community Services Department and members of the Red Cross were staffing the center. Members of the Anaheim Amateur Radio Association were there to relay emergency messages.

Adrian DeBruyn and his wife Coby, of 113 Ruby St. in the Hollydale mobile home park in Carbon Canyon, sat quietly at the relief center table and thought longingly of their dog Julia. They were returning from a visit to relatives in Bellflower when police turned them back.

"We're worried about everything," said Adrian. "Our main concern is the dog. The other things can all be replaced, but that is our 'child'. We don't have any children at home. That's the only thing we have. That is life. The rest can be replaced," said the retired plumber.

Frank Elliott, manager of the 134-unit mobile home park, sat and worried over the fate of his tenants. He 'too' had been turned back as he tried to reach the park.

"Nervous and concerned ... here and here we have a mobile home park to go back to. I think we will. We always keep that hope," he said.

Gay Coons, who has lived on Lilac Lane in Olinda Village for four years, said she left on her own at 1:30 p.m.

"This time the fire was definitely closer," she said, referring to the Carbon Canyon fire two years ago.

"We got the dog out and my daughter grabbed the marriage certificate and some other certificates," she added.

Robert Gibson, an elderly man who lives at the Hollydale trailer park near Olinda Village, said he left about 3:30 p.m.

His daughter, Barbara Smith from Olinda Village, said they had to come to the evacuation center by way of Chino because of the road closures.

Meanwhile, Brea Councilman Mel LeBaron stopped by to reassure the evacuees their homes were safe at that time.

"The area is fairly safe," he said. "No residential structures have burned."

While the evacuees sipped coffee and ate cookies provided by the city and Red Cross, the Young Americans, a singing group of young people ages 16 to 21, performed their act. The group was to rehearse at that time in another room of the hall.

Christie Mulhern of the Brea Community Services Department said between 35 and 40 persons were at the center. Cots were being set up in another room for residents who had to stay overnight.

West of Olinda Village, the fire leaped down the canyon, burning in small sporadic patches and transforming trees into glowing red embers.

Firefighters poured water on the roof of a single home at 17111 Carbon Canyon Road, as a cockatiel, rescued from the home, chirped in its cage nearby.

Whipped by the winds, the flames from the house leaped 20 to 30 feet in the air.

Behind the house were the remnants of what appeared to be a combination garage and residence, now burned to the ground. The remains of a car, a motorcycle and other items could be seen smoldering in the ashes. Something inside the garage erupted in a sudden explosion, sending smoke and sparks 20 feet in the air.

By dusk the fire had moved into the Tonner Canyon area, while another section still burned near Olinda Village.

SKIES BLACK WITH SMOKE

Olinda Village, Brea watch with caution

Monday, November 17, 1980

Section B



CLOUDS OF SMOKE SHOW THREAT TO OLINDA VILLAGE