Thurston Supplemental Report

te of Repo	rt 4 1574	District_	<u>/</u> _Šŕ	ift 4	uncore Ca	se Number_	74-3372
of Occu	rance 4-13	740111ce	er Eag	van !	Type of	Complaint_	Pass aron
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STATE OF WASHINGTON OFFICE OF STATE FIRE MARSHAL

OLVINA 17592-12
INSUANCE BUILDING
OLYMPIA. WASHINGTON 98504
753-3605. ARKA CODE 206
3605

INVESTIGATION REPORT

•			•	
Fitle of case WILLIAM EARL	COSDEN, JR.		File No. SFM_	74-147
Date of fire April 15 , 19 74		Investigated by	Sherman Fra	se
Location Rt. 4, 1332 1st St.		Olympia	Thurs	ton
(stree	t)	(city)	(coun	ty)
Owner William Earl Cosden	, Jr. Occu	pant Same .		
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·				
		(Effective Dates)	Coverage	Amount
Insurance Company	Policy No.	Effective Dates	Coverage	Milouite
PENNSYLVANIA GENERAL	9 н1011119	3-22-74 to 75	Structure	\$20,000.00
			Contents	10,000.00
Previous fire record Pick-up t	ruck fire on No	vember 26. 1973:	house fire on]	-29-74
revious life record lich wp s			•	Land Care St. Lines
payable to William Cosden	, Jr.			-
Recent increases, changesA	pril 5, 1974, i	ncrease \$33,000 &	\$16,500 for pr	oposed additi
Agent Olympia Insurance Broker				
Adjuster R. G. Wallace, GAB,	120 Union Ave.,	Olympia, phone 5	43-2 (20	
	true bodynom	from dealling		
Property involved One story	, two bearoom,	frame dwelling		
here fire started Laundry r	oom; area of or	igin	1,21	<u> </u>
Probable cause Undetermi	ned			
Extent of damage Total				
Injuries or deathsNone	•			
	pen			
That disposition of case	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,			
Details This writer was enro	ute to this fir	e scene at 2:20 p	.m., on Monday,	April 15, 19
Mr. Jerry Maury, Jr., of the Ol	ympia Insurancé	Brokers, was the	only person at	the fire sce
on this Deputy's arrival. The	fire department	had left the sce	ne a short time	before.
The fire scene was a small, one	story, two bed	room dwelling, wi	th vertical woo	od siding, wit

Page 2 SFM 74-147

a tar roof over $\frac{1}{2}$ " tongue and groove shiplap. Internal wall covering and ceiling covering consisted of $\frac{1}{2}$ " plasterboard.

The entire dwelling sustained heavy fire and heat damage, however, the laundry room area, which was also used as a baby's bedroom, sustained, by far, the heaviest damage. This room lost practically its entire roof area and large floor penetrations were in evidence within this room. The floor stringers beneath the penetration were not heavily damaged and had indication of a fire burning top to the bottom of the floor.

A narrow area of floor penetration extended under the baseboard electric heating element, right up to the wall area. A large pile of fire debris from the burned out roof section was laying on the ground beneath the floor stringers. Other items, such as portable electric heater, boots, a metal ironing board and other debris, had been shoveled out of the room and was in the backyard, adjacent to the laundry room. north wall of the laundry room, which separated the laundry room from the main bedroom area, sustained heavy fire damage, however, the wall studs were not burned out, but did sustain a heavy char. The southwest wall area of the laundry room, which contained the washer, dryer and shelves, did not have any exterior penetration, but was in relatively good condition. Char pattern on these wall stude had a wide alligatoring, indicating a slow build-up in this area. It should be noted that folding doors separated the washer and dryer and shelving area from the main part of the room. The ceiling and roof area was burned out completely to the south or west wall edge, with portions of roof for approximately 3 or 4' were still left hanging over from the north wall. Fire tapering on the ceiling stringers indicated the fire burning from south to north direction.



While examining the fire debris under the house, under the floor penetrations in the laundry room, this writer found a five gallon gasoline can. On examination, it was noted that the spout on the can was closed, in that the spout was inverted into the can. The vent covering on top of the can had been burned away and the top of the can had bubbled and buckled showing pressure from within the can, caused by heat. It should be pointed out that this can was laying beside the debris and was in no way covered by it, however, it was laying close enough to the debris that it could have sustained its heat from this debris.

During this same time, it was noted that a foundation stringer, approximately in the center of the house, was burning and a request was given to a neighbor to call the fire department back to the scene. The Littlerock Fire Department (Thurston County Fire District #11) responded with one engine and three men. The fire was extinguished by attacking from underneath and by cutting a hole through the floor just off the kitchen area. The driver of this engine was a Ken Davis and he stated that he was first in on the engine at the first fire that morning. He stated that on arrival, flames were emitting from both the front and rear of the house and that the doors and windows were gone at this time. Stated he did not notice if fire was emitting from the roof at this time or not.

Summation:

- 1. Due to the fire pattern within the laundry room area, it was very evident that this was the area of origin, with total roof burn away and large floor penetration. This was also the only area with floor penetration.
- 2. The fire department had completely shoveled out and cleaned out all debris within this laundry room. All debris being either under the floor area underground or in the backyard.

Page 4

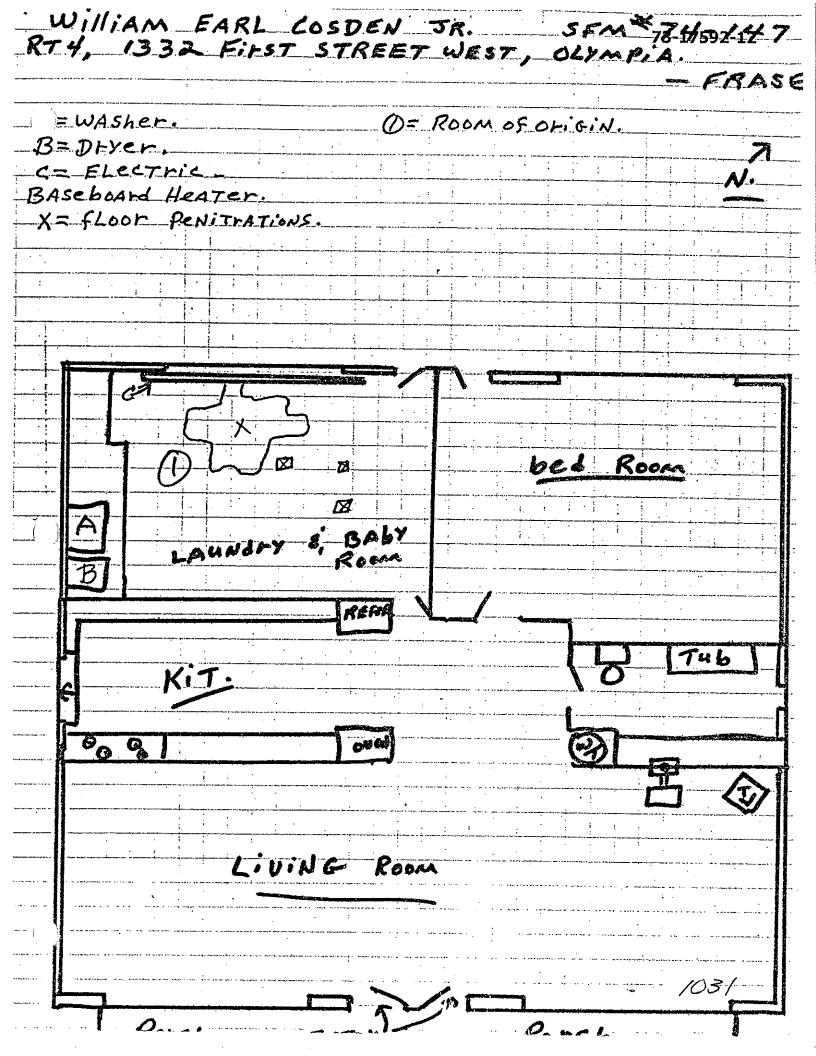
SFM 74-147

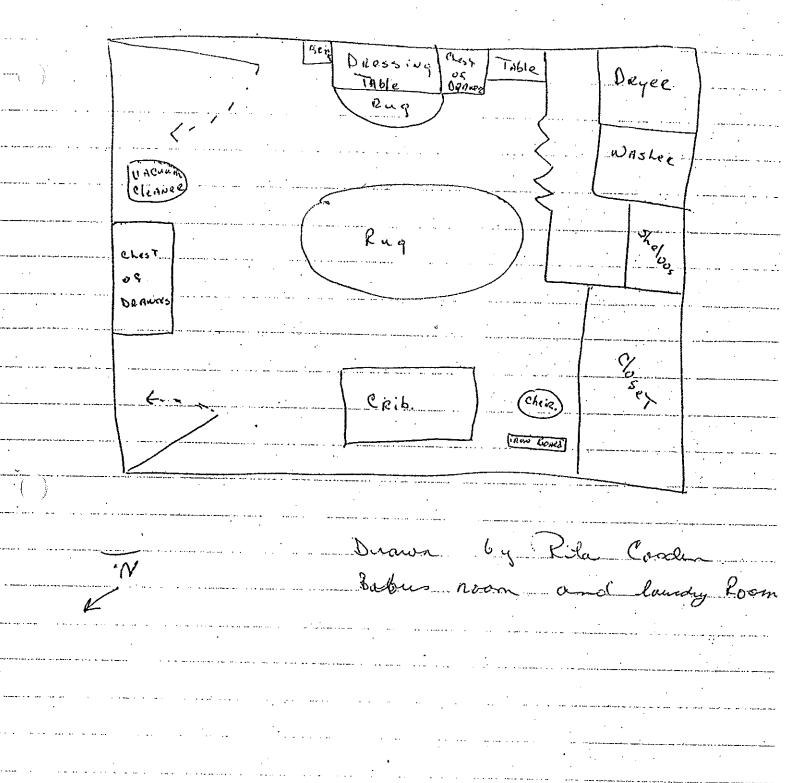
- 3. There are indications of a fairly fast fire on the north wall stude after the plasterboard had given away.
- 4. Prior fires of William Cosden includes: a. Pick-up truck, insured damages of \$3935.00. On November 26, 1973. b. Bathroom fire, same dwelling on January 29, 1974. Insured loss \$1600.00.

This fire is being considered one of undetermined origin at this time, however, the case will remain open.

SHERMAN FRASE Deputy State Fire Marshal

SF:kje April 19, 1974





PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX

File # SFM 74-147 County Thurston
Date of Incident 4-15-74 Date of this Report 4-23-74 Sherman Frase

Title V	ILLIAM COSDEN By Sherman Frase
TTOTE N	Investigator Investigator
Item No.	Dogovánski
	Description
1.	Identification picture - dwelling of William Cosden, address 1332 lst St. E., Scott Lake Addition, Olympia. (Littlerock area) View looking in northerly direction, front entryway.
2.	Another view of front entryway looking through house.
3.	View of driveway side of dwelling, southwest wall area. Looking into kitchen area.
4.	Closer view of picture #3, looking into kitchen area, with remains of meter on right side of picture.
5.	View of rear of dwelling; west wall. Master bedroom on left side of picture, while laundry room and baby's room is on right side of picture, which was area of origin. Note that
	picture, which was area of origin. Note debris on ground which had been shoveled from laundry room area. Red circle indicates location of 5 gallon gas can, which was found approximately 2' in under floor area next to debris.
6.	Picture of gas can found under laundry room floor.
7.	Closer view of same gas can. Note exposed condition, with missing vent cover on top of can. Note can spout inverted in closed position.
8.	Area looking over debris in backyard; looking under house, under laundry area. Debris is portions of floor and roof. Also area where gas can was found.
9.	View of debris found on laundry room side; backyard, next to house. Debris including shoes, boots, metal ironing board, electric space heater, etc.
10.	Same as photograph #9.
11.	View of debris found on bedroom side, rear of dwelling, backyard. Debris included the bed springs, plus remains of a mattress and other debris.
12.	View of east side, living room area. Note plasterboard held fairly well on this wall.

WASHINGTON STATE FIRE MARSHAL

	File # SFM 74-147
PHOTO	OGRAPHIC INDEX Page 2 Date of Incident
	Date of this Report
mtis	By
Title	WILLIAM COSDEN Investigator
Item No.	Description
•	
13.	Southwest area; living room wall; bookcase shelving.
14.	Picture taken from living room, looking in westerly direction, through pass through area in wall, looking into kitchen.
15.	View of kitchen area, looking in southerly direction.
16.	Floor penetration just north of kitchen area and west of living room area, in what would be classified as corridor. These penetrations were cut-outs by the fire department on the second fire or rekindling fire. Foundation timber had rekindled and Littlerock Fire Department cut out area to reach fire.
17.	Same as photograph #16.
18.	View of master bedroom; northwest area of dwelling.
19.	Same as photograph #18.
20.	View of south wall; laundry room area, with washer and dryer. Note good condition of interior side of exterior horizontal shiplap.
21.	View of floor penetrations and burn away in laundry room. Note burn penetration right up under baseboard heater.
22. thru 26.	Same as photograph #21.
27.	Inner view of floor stringers across laundry room, noting slight burn indication from top to bottom.
28.	View of the only portion of roof area in laundry room, which sustained practically total roof burn away.

SF:kje

WASHIN_TON STATE FIRE ARSHAL 73-17592-12

SUPPLEMENTAL REPO	ORT
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File # SFM 74-147

County Thurston

Date of Incident 4-15-74

Date of this Report 4-30-74

By Sherman Frase

Investigator

Title WILLIAM EARL COSDEN, JR.

Due to there being no further evidence or leads as to cause of this fire, it is considered closed.

SHERMAN FRASE Deputy State Fire Marshal

SF:kje April 30, 1974 CONFIDENTIAL REPORT

File # SMF 74-147
County Thurston
Date of Incident Apr 15, 1974
Date of this ReportApr 17,1974
By Sherman Frase
Investigator

Title WILLIAM COSDEN

This deputy, after examining the gas can found under the floor level of the laundry room on the afternoon of April 15, 1974, placed the can upright next to the wall of the house beside the rest of the debris. On returning to the fire scene the following morning, April 16, 1974, it was noted that the gas can was missing. This writer asked William Cosden and his wife, Rita, who were on the scene at this time, if they had moved anything from the area of the debris and they stated "no." This deputy then made a circle survey of the backyard area and found the gas can next to a fence in the rear of the yard behind some pine trees.

A voluntary written statement was given to this writer by Cosden after first reading and signing his Waiver of Rights. This was witnessed by Robert Wallace, Branch Manager of the General Adjustment Bureau, Olympia. Cosden states in his statement that he went to work approximately 8:30 a.m., left work at about 10:00 a.m., came and stayed home until approximately 11:00 a.m. then drove his car until about 11:30 when we went over to a Stella Hargett where his wife works as a beautician. This writer then asked Cosden if he did in truth move the gas can and he stated yes he did that "the gas can looked bad sitting there." Stated that the gas can had been emptied and had been placed in the back yard next to the wall of the laundry room.

After receiving Cosden's statement, this writer then went to the Thurston County Sheriff's office, Olympia. A discussion with Thurston County Deputy Tom Goodeve then took place regarding this fire and Cosden's background. A conference was then held with Jack Crawford, Thurston County Undersheriff, regarding this same matter. Crawford stated that William Cosden is not above

Page 2

SFM 74-147

telling falsehoods and is rather hard to get a straight answer out of. Cosden also applied for a concealed weapons permit a short time back and the Sheriff's office refused him one. He is supposedly known to have in his possession a 357 Magnum revolver.

Ron Brown, Chief of Fire Science and Investigation, Washington State Fire Marshal's office was then notified of the prior fires that Cosden has had and the request will be sent to the State of Maryland authorities regarding any fires Cosden may have had in that state.

On Thursday, April 18, 1974, this writer contacted Mr. Terry Olson,
Branch Manager, Evergreen Savings & Loan, 817 Sleater-Kinnery Road SE, Lacey,
Telephone 491-4340. Olson informed this deputy that Cosden took out a mortgage
in 1972 for his dwelling and at the present times owes \$13,869 on the mortgage.
A loan for improvements amounting to \$8,500 for an addition onto his dwelling
had been approved on the week of April 8, 1974. Olson states that on Monday,
April 15, 1974, at approximately 10:00 a.m., Cosden called his office in regards to the improvement loan. Sometime between 11:-- and 11:30 a.m. on April
15th, Mr. Olson returned his call and stated that Cosden was very angry about
the length of time for the loan. Olson informed him that if he didn't like
the manner in which the loan was being made out, he could elsewhere. It was
reported from Olson that Cosden was very angry at this time. Olson stated that
the Blue Star Construction Company operated by David Burkey, with last known
address of 1912 Conger St., Olympia, was to have done the addition work.

Time again of the phone call between Olson and Cosden was approximately 11:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. The alarm time for this fire, as noted, was 11:50 a.m.

These are the known facts up to this date and the case will remain open.

SHERMAN FRASE Deputy State Fire Marshal

SF:lrj April 23, 1974 Date April 15, 197 Other Reference. Thurston County Problem and Location Rt. 4, 1332 1st St. W., Olympia Bob Wallace, GAB, Olympia Event house fire

SUBJEOT	FILED AS				
	7 2000 700				
COSDEN, JR., WILLIAM EARL dob 12-19-46 POB Baltimore, Maryland	owner/occupant. Had prior house fire on 1-29-74, bathroom fire, loss \$1,600.00 Pick-up fire 11-26-73. 1972 International loss \$3,935.00				
·					
·					

KARL HERRMANN
STATE INSURANCE COMMISSIONER
AND STATE FIRE MARSHAL



OFFICE OF

STATE FIRE MARSHAL

OLYMPIA 98501

SFM# 74-147

YOUR RIGHTS

Place RT4, 1332 First st west olympic Date april 16/974
Time 9:10 /M

Before we ask you any questions, you must understand your rights.

You have the right to remain silent.

Anything you say can be used against you in court.

You have the right to talk to a lawyer for advice before we ask you any questions and to have him with you during questioning.

If you cannot afford a lawyer, one will be appointed for you before any questioning if you wish.

If you decide to answer questions now without a lawyer present, you will still have the right to stop answering at any time. You also have the right to stop answering at any time until you talk to a lawyer.

WAIVER OF RIGHTS

I have read this statement of my rights and I understand what my rights are. I am willing to make a statement and answer questions. I do not want a lawyer at this time. I understand and know what I am doing. No promises or threats have been made to me and no pressure or coercion of any kind has been used against me.

Witness Sherman Frase
Witness Robert Done Valla

Time 9112 4/11

1039

Date: Capail 16, 1974 Time: commenced 9:13 Completed 9:52 4 Taken at: RT. 4, 1332 First Street West, Olympia Wash. Full name: William Earl Coroden & Date of birth 12-1246 Address: RT 4, 1332 First St. West, Olympic, Washington (state) do hereby make the following I, Malhan E. Marke statement to Aletman These, who has identified himself as a representative of the Washington State Fire Marshal's office. It represents a full and true account of the facts, to the best of my knowledge, and is made voluntarily without any threats, promises or favors.

VOLUNTARY STATEMENT home the house Page 2 of 8 pages.

Fire Levels SFM* 74-147 Rural Home

Fire of undetermined origin Monday morning swept through the Bill Cosden residence at 1332 1st Ave. In the Scott Lake addition. No injuries were reported.

According to initial reports Mrs. Raymond Bruhn, a neighbor of the Cosden family, observed flames shooting from the house shortly before noon. Mrs. Bruhn telephoned fire control dispatch as her husband ran to the Cosden home to see if any members of the family were trapped inside. Bruhn crawled on his hands and knees inside the Cosden front door, but was unable to continue further as he was turned back by heavy smoke.

The Littlerock Fire Department responded to the emergency and arrived at the scene eight minutes after Mrs. Bruhn telephoned in the alarm. Nine minutes later, Littlerock smoke-eaters telephoned dispatch announcing that they had run out of water and called for assistance.

sistance.

Mrs. Bruhn said the Cosden home was all but leveled and that there is little hope of salvaging any of the family's belongings.

Fire Control said Mrs. Cosden was visiting other neighbors when the blaze broke out. The Cosden's have one child.

The Daily Olympian, Tuesday, April 16, 1974

Cosden Fire Probe Launched

The State Fire Marshal's Office has been called in to investigate a fire that swept through the Bill Cosden residence Monday at 1332 lst Ave. in the Scott Lake Addition.

No cause has been listed in the noon fire which destroyed the single bedroom home and its contents. The loss has been set at \$18,000. A spokesman for the Littlerock Fire Department said the loss was at least partially covered by insurance.

The Littlerock department responded to the alarm, then called for assistance from Tumwater and East Olympia when it ran out of water. A total of three pumpers and three tankers fought the blaze, which left only the four walls standing.

THURSTON COUNTY FIRE CONTROL INCIDENT REPORT

	THE TOTAL PROPERTY.	LIVI NEPORT
(check one) City of Olympia City of Lacey City of Tumwater Fire District No. II Town of Bucoda	Normal response Auto. response Mutual Aid	XX Incident No. 17 Date 15 April 74 Time 1151
I. Manpower 1. Engine No's. 12, 22,32 Trucks. 2. No. of men: First Engine	Rescue	Uuits Other
II. Dispatch Information 1. First 10-8 115.4	1159 First 10-17 13.11 T.F.D Weather Condition Side Side	Last 10-24 Last 10-25 ns . Clear/Dry . Footage 2472-2496 . Footage
are a second		
III. Incident Information 1. Owner-Address	t St. East M. Bldg.	Phone
IV. Fire Information	_	
1. Type of Occupancy Single 2. Cause of ignition Unit power 3. Area of origin Utility 4. First Material Ignited Unit power 4. First Material Ignited Unit power 5. Fire Discovered by 6. Wall framing 7. Floor framing 8. Roof framing 9. Area of bldg. 10. Material or evidence removed from scene 11 Pictures taken 12. Follow up Investigation requested 13. Value of Bldg Unit power 14. Loss to bldg. 14. Loss to bldg. Unit power 15. Insurance Agent/Company 16. Mobile: Year Make 17. Injuries 18. Equipment used:	Wall finish Floor covering Roof covering No. of sotries Contents Contents Address Model License	by: by: to: UnKnown UnKnown
V. Aid Call Information		
V. Aid Call Information 1. Victim name and address 2. Age Sex Equ 3. Type of Call 4. Disposition of victim	uipment used	. Phone

Officer in charge

Ken Davis
Reporting Official

Jim Gibbs
Dispatcher
1043

[DU LICATE]

LUDOTON	Course	Γ	^	-	
IHURSTON	COUNTY	FIRE	LUNTRUL	MOTOGRA	Drosom
			VONTINUL	TIMETHEM	NEMBEL

	Helicitott Coolii i	THE CON	IROL INCID	ENT KEPOR	er -
(check one) Gity of Olympia City of Lacey City of Tumwater Fire District No. Town of Bucoda	<u></u>	Normal r Auto. r Mutual A	'esponse	<u>Xx</u>	Incident No. 17 Date 15 April 74 Time 1151
I. Manpower 1. Engine No's. 12, 2 2. No. of men: First En 3. Police on scene . T. C	22,32 Trucks	Re	scne	Units	Other
I was a none recorder tane: T	'ana 📈	~	1	and the second of the second o	0-24. Last 10-25. r/Dry 2472-2490
477 Y	1232 Ein 1 CL	, r L			
IV. Fire Information 1. Type of Occupancy 2. Cause of ignition 3. Area of origin 4. First Material Ignited 5. Fire Discovered by 6. Wall framing 7. Floor framing 8. Roof framing 9. Area of bldg 10.Material or evidence rem 11 Pictures taken 12. Follow up Investigation 13. Value of Bldg 14. Loss to bldg 15.Insurance Agent/Compar 16.Mobile: Year 17.Injuries 18.Equipment used:	Single fami unknown Utility room unknown oved from scene requested unknown yuknown ny Make Mo	We File Ro	all finish oor covering of covering of sotries on tents on tents of the contents of the conten	by: by: to: InKnow No.	7)
V. Aid Call Information 1. Victim name and address 2. Age Sex . 3. Type of Call	Equipment	t used		Phone	***************************************

SeedOfficer in charge

Ken Davis
Reporting Official

Jim Gibbs
Dispatcher