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Fatal Fire

off Route 79 (Myricks St.) East Taunton.

The Taunton Fire Department was first notified by telephone of a brush fire in the area at 8:33 p. m. Engine Eight of the East Taunton station was dispatched.

A few minutes later, at 8:45, a box alarm at County St., near Cotley St., was sounded and Engine Two was sent to the scene.

Police and Taunton firefighters found the charred body of Raymond in the ruins of the make-shift camping shed. Last rites were administered the boy by Rev. James F. Kenney, assistant pastor of the Holy Family Church in East Taunton.

Police Chief John A. Bobola said that Paul was able to walk away from the burning camp and was taken to Morton Hospital by his mother.

The camp site was located about 650 feet in back of the Maynard home, which is the last house on the left on Claire Terrace.

Chief Bobola said that the boys apparently constructed the shed themselves and had camped there several times in the past.

Bobola said it was reported to him by neighbors that the shed consisted of two upright pieces of plywood with pine boughs laid over the top.

The fire did not spread to the wooded area around it, but was confined to about a six-foot, by six-foot area where the shed had stood.

Chief Bobola said that from the position of the cinder blocks and a few bricks, he determined the boys had apparently rigged a home made fireplace.

It was still a mystery as to how the eight-year old youngster was able to walk the estimated 650 feet to his home in the light of the extensive burns to his small frame.

Chief Bobola said it wasn't known whether the boy went to his mother's house or to a relative's across the street, but that the mother took him to the hospital.

Chief Bobola said he would not attempt to question the boy for at least another five or six days because of his condition.

It was a bleak scene that confronted police and firefighters on their arrival. There was also something strange and frightening about this tiny little spot in the woods, blackened by flames and gloom, and set apart from the unscathed wooded area surrounding it.

Trees not five feet away were barely scorched by the flames, and overhanging branches were hardly touched.

Two cinder blocks, two pails, a washpan, and a few bricks were the only vestiges of a boy's camping adventure.

The Maynard family had moved to the St. Yves development from New Bedford only six weeks ago.

The father is employed by the St. Yves Builders, Inc., as a painter. He had worked for the firm for several years whenever he was needed, and had been placed on a permanent salary only a year ago.

The family previously lived at 788 County St., New Bedford where Raymond attended the Sacred Heart School and was an altar boy for the Sacred Heart Church.

In addition to his parents and 3-year-old brother, he is survived by two other brothers, Roger and Donald; two sisters, Irene and Jacqueline; and grandparent Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Maynard of Swansea, and Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Roy of New Bedford.

Mr. and Mrs. Roy are step parents to Mrs. Maynard, whose maiden name is Clair Hawksworth.