

MONTANA  
 FEBRUARY 23, 1940  
 NUMBER 8

# Fumes Snuff Out Lives Of Three Young Men Here

## Filling Station Man Discovers Their Bodies In Office When He Got There Thursday Morning

A tragedy which took the lives of three Bozeman young men occurred Wednesday night when Thor Sheppard, Frank Broadbeck and Charles Fridley were overcome by natural gas fumes in Riddle's Standard Service station at the corner of Tracy and Mendenhall. The three young men were found yesterday morning by Tommy Riddle when he came to the station to open up in the morning. The bodies of the three were huddled on the floor in such fashion as to make the opening of the door difficult.

Mr. Riddle reported the accident to the police department and returned with Chief of Police R. C. Embry. The boys were dead when found. A coroner's jury composed of William Fletcher, chairman; Roy Anderson, F. P. Byrne, Don Bennett, Brooke Hartman and J. A. Shadoan examined the bodies last night and turned in the verdict: "... that the said, Charles Fridley, Thor Sheppard and Frank Broadbeck came to their death as the result of inhaling fumes from burned natural gas caused by the placing of a cardboard over the cold-air intake of a hot-air ceiling furnace by a person or persons unknown..."

From the arrangement of the station office it is believed that the boys stopped at the station after having attended a National Guard meeting. Mr. Fridley worked for Riddle's Service and opened the station with his key. The furnace was found on at full capacity indicating that the boys had tried to warm up the office. A cardboard had been placed over the cold air intake which caused the gas to form carbon monoxide.

Charles Fridley, 21, was the only son of Mrs. Anna Fridley, 119 North Tracy avenue. He is a graduate of Gallatin County High school and attended Montana State college one year. He was born at Columbus, Mont., and moved with his mother to Bozeman when a small child. Mr. Fridley was a member of the Episcopal church. Funeral arrangements have not been

completed. He is survived by his mother and three uncles, Will and Louis Krueger of Bozeman and an uncle at Columbus.

Frank Broadbeck, 24, was the only son of Mr. and Mrs. F. J. Broadbeck of Denton, Mont., Mr. Broadbeck was a freshman at Montana State college and was majoring in civil engineering. He graduated from Fergus County High school at Lewistown. Surviving relatives in Montana include the parents, an aunt and uncle, Mr. and Mrs. E. E. Dennett of Lewistown and a cousin, Delight Dennett of Bozeman.

Thor Sheppard, 19, was the son of Dr. and Mrs. O. E. Sheppard, 521 South Willson avenue. Mr. Sheppard was a sophomore at Montana State college and majoring in chemistry. He was a member of Alpha Chi Sigma, chemistry honorary; a pledge to Phi Kappa, an officer in the ROTC and a member of the local National Guard. Mr. Sheppard was born at Springfield, Mo., and was brought to Bozeman by his parents in 1923. He graduated from Gallatin County High school in 1937.

Surviving relatives, besides the parents, include six sisters, Mary Margaret, Gyda, Betty June, Dorothy Louise, Freyda and Phyllis and three brothers, Oden, Richard and G.A. and a number of aunts and uncles in Missouri and California.

## Parrots Present Three Act Comedy 'The Best People'

**High School Dramatic Club to  
Stage Matinee Wednesday and  
Evening Performance Thursday**

"The Best People," an amusing