

# 9 WOMEN PATIENTS DIE IN HOSPITAL FIRE

Widow of F. Scott Fitzgerald  
One of Victims in Mental  
Institution in Asheville

ASHEVILLE, N. C., March 11 (AP)—Fire swept through a mental hospital here early today and caused the death of nine women patients. Twenty others were led to safety.

Flames quickly engulfed the four-story central building of the Highland Hospital for Nervous Diseases. The cries of some of the twenty-nine women echoed over the grounds. Firemen, police, nurses, doctors and townspeople rushed to the rescue.

Seven women were trapped on the upper floors. Two others removed by firemen died in a short while. It was the third fire in the hospital in less than a year.

Fire Chief J. C. Fitzgerald said he believed today's fire started in the kitchen of the hospital's central building, but that had not been officially determined.

Dr. B. T. Bennett, hospital medical director, estimated the fire loss at \$300,000.

Miss Betty Ubbenga of Lincoln, Ill., assistant supervisor, described how she and Supervisor Frances Bender of Scarboro, W. Va., first went after the helpless patients.

"We felt that the others were awake and would help themselves," she said. "As soon as we got the helpless ones out and safely put away elsewhere, we rushed back to help the others. By then we knew some had been trapped. Some of them were awake, we know, and were rousing the others."

Some of the patients had been overcome by smoke and were unable to help themselves, Miss Ubbenga said.

"It seemed no time at all until the entire building was like a furnace."

## Widow of Author a Victim

Mrs. F. Scott Fitzgerald, widow of the author and a victim of the hospital fire, had been ill for some years and went to the Highland Hospital three months ago from the home of her 85-year-old mother, Mrs. Anthony Sayre in Montgomery, Ala. Mrs. Fitzgerald's daughter, Mrs. S. J. Lanahan of this city, said burial would be in Rockville, Md., where the author is buried.

Mrs. Fitzgerald, who was 47 years old, was the author of a novel, "Save Me the Waltz," and many short stories published in leading magazines. The Fitzgeralds were married in 1919. Mrs. Fitzgerald's father was Judge Anthony Sayre of the Alabama Supreme Court. Besides her mother and daughter, she leaves three sisters.