



PERIOD COSTUMES are worn at dinner honoring 154th anniversary of Charles Dickens' birth by Mrs. A. H. Gildermeester (left), president of Victoria branch, Dickens Fellowship, and Miss Janet M. Card a long-time member. (Strickland Photo.)

## Bed Fire Smoke Snuffs Out Life Of Elderly Man

A rooming house fire Sunday morning claimed the life of a 72-year-old man who was smoking in bed.



MacNaughton

Dead is Angus MacNaughton, 331 Niagara, a retired civil engineer who had lived here since 1933.

He was found slumped in a chair in his smoke-filled basement room by other tenants.

The man was pulled from the room by Joseph Frausin, Roy Bowden and Ed Holmberg, owner of the home.

He was taken to the back yard of the home and police conveyed him from there to St. Joseph's Hospital where he was pronounced dead on arrival.

A city fire department crew quickly extinguished the blaze, which did about \$100 damage.

Fire Chief James Allen said today the fire was caused by smoking in bed.

The man's bed, mattress and sheets were destroyed.

It is not known if an inquest will be called.

**TRAILER DESTROYED**  
In another weekend fire, the \$8,000 trailer of Mrs. Grace Pepper was engulfed by flames shortly after midnight Saturday.

When View Royal and Langford units arrived at the blaze at 2615 Chilco, it was too late to save anything.

The 60-foot trailer was mostly covered by insurance, View Royal fire chief Al Beasley said today.

Cause of the blaze is unknown but most of the burning was around an oil heater, he said.

**Pedestrian 'Poor' After Car Mishap**  
An elderly woman pedestrian is in poor condition in St. Joseph's Hospital after being involved in a car accident Saturday evening.

Mrs. Mabel Fairclough, 83, of 715 Cook Street, received head injuries.

She was taken to hospital unconscious following a mishap at Richardson and Trutch at 7:30 p.m. Saturday.

Police said the woman was crossing Richardson to the southwest corner of Trutch when in collision with the auto.

They identified the driver as Johann Amering, 405 St. Charles.

**Thieves Busy In City On Weekend**  
A weekend break-in at Dave Duncan Shell Service, Bay and Pleasant, yielded four tires and 24 quarts of oil.

Loot was valued at \$190. Police said thieves removed a small window to gain entry.

A portable TV valued at \$15 was taken as well as a chenille bedspread to wrap it in when thieves entered the home of Rene Bouchard, 1262 Oscar, Sunday evening.

Thieves also broke into Ethel's Bakery, 305 Cook, but took nothing and attempted to enter Fairfield Barbers, 309 Cook.

## CITY FELLOWSHIP HONORS THE OLD REFORMER

# Even in Space Age He'd Raise the Dickens

By NORMAN CRIBBENS

Living in Victoria are many people who believe the spirit of Charles Dickens as novelist, reformer and humanitarian is as alive today as it was 100 years ago.

And, in an age of automation, mass media and standardized thinking, they seek to perpetuate the immortal characters he created during his turbulent literary life.

They are the men and women who comprise the Victoria branch of the Dickens Fellowship—a world-wide organization founded in London, Eng., in 1902, which has since spread all over the world.

Victoria's Dickensians meet once a month to read and discuss his works, and every year they hold a banquet to celebrate his birth on Feb. 7, 1812.

Not content with eulogizing Dickens and relating him to modern times, they seek to recreate the atmosphere of his novels by wearing the dress of the period—and this calls for some arduous dressmaking.

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This year it was Victoria writer Henry W. Maunsell, who returned recently from a two-year stay in Britain during which he and his wife, a poet, visited many famous Dickens landmarks.

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MRS. A. G. MANCER

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