

FORM AND PAPER PLANTS

Loss to 2 firms put at \$300,000

BY JOE DONALDSON
Gazette Staff Writer

Related story on page 1B

NIAGARA FALLS — A fiercely-burning blaze fed by 10,000 tons of corrugated paper destroyed the plant of EM Business Forms Inc. and the warehouse of Consolidated Fibers Inc. in the former Moore Business Forms complex in Highland Avenue today.

Damage was expected to exceed \$300,000.

Offices of Tract 2 Betterment Inc. located in the front part of the building escaped with only smoke and water damage.

The three-alarm fire broke out at 12:48 a.m. today and paper in the Consolidated Fibers warehouse was still burning this afternoon.

Firemen said it might take several days before the balls of paper, piled 20 feet high, burn themselves out.

For 15 employees of the EM Business Forms who reported for work this morning, the scene was one of sadness and desolation.

"We started from scratch. We got this far and in six hours four years of work went up in smoke," said John Szarypek, president of the company, which was formed by former Moore employees when Moore ceased operations in Highland Avenue.

"Oh my God, look at the presses. They are wrecked," said a woman employee while tears formed in her eyes.

Mr. Szarypek and several employees salvaged a few filing cabinets, their contents scorched.

"That's all that's left," said the president of the firm as he explained his company was preparing a major expansion at the site.

He said representatives of four large accounts were to be flown here in June to discuss the expansion.

Mr. Szarypek said the loss would range between \$200,000 and \$300,000. He noted business for the fledgling firm was mounting and that it had even been put on the list to make business forms for the federal government.

He said the firm was insured and was optimistic that the company would be back in business soon in a new location.

So intense was the heat that steel girders in the building softened and bent into weird shapes.

"I got here just before one o'clock and it was only a matter of minutes before the whole place went up. The firm is located on the Beech Avenue side of the complex.

The fire broke out in the Consolidated Fibers warehouse located adjacent to EM Business Forms.

Fire Chief Edwin Forster said escape was unknown and was under investigation by the Fire Prevention Bureau.

But Clarence LaRocca, 248 Fifth St., who said he was an employee of Consolidated, said, "I got a feeling it was ahead," as he related windows and doors in the building were always being broken by vandals.

Mr. LaRocca said the company picks up paper boxes from area stores and sheds them and stores them in the building.

He said the paper is valued at about \$10 a ton and that the plant has about 10,000 tons

Hundreds of feet of hose stretched from hydrants and trucks from Highland Avenue and Beech Avenue and firemen were red-eyed from the smoke and ash.

Two firemen, Daniel Thomas, 34, of 3236 Ely Ave., and Joseph DiPietro, 33, of 2429 Weston Ave., were treated at Memorial Medical Center for smoke inhalation and eye irritation.

At the fire scene, firemen lined up in front of a Professional Ambulance Service ambulance to have irritated eyes washed out.

Chief Forster, grimy, foot-sore and eyes watering, praised his firemen for their nearly 7 hours of work under difficult conditions while smoke and ash from the raging paper fire swirled about.

A tanker truck from the Town of Lewiston Fire Co. No. 2 assisted by dousing burning embers blown about by the wind. The Town of Niagara Active Hose Co. also was on the scene and the Frontier Volunteer Fire Co. stood by at the 73rd Street and Frontier Avenue Hall.

All pumbers and ladders of the Niagara Falls Fire Department were pressed into service, 21 additional men were called in to aid the on-duty platoon and standby equipment also was used.

Day firemen replaced the weary firefighters at 8 a.m. Some 50 firemen battled the blaze during its height, with the second alarm turned in at 1:04 a.m. and the third at 1:35 a.m.

Chief Forster said it was the toughest fire the department has had to battle in years.

He said firefighters felt particularly bad about the destruction of the business forms company.

"That was a personal loss. It caused the loss of jobs and destroyed an enterprise," said Chief Forster.

Roofs of the building were completely burned out and heat blasted out water at various locations.

Reports circulated that firemen had difficulty with their smoke truck and that there was some delay in firefighting operations.

Chief Forster denied the report. "Our guys did a great job. I know of no problems," said the chief.

Arterial traffic signal activated

NIAGARA FALLS — The free-for-all at LaSalle Arterial and Third Street ended today with the activation of the traffic control lights.

The eight-traffic light units have not been in use since their installation last year. The city traffic division last week modified the lights to control two-way traffic, a move that permitted the state Department of Transportation this morning to put them into service.

DOT officials have agreed to permit

PLANT IN HIGHLAND AVENUE EARLY TODAY
Inc. were destroyed

Photo by Dan Soback

kes taxes 9%

of just over \$7 million are
for example, cleaning costs
moved from related codes
contractual codes to comply
change in a private
of libraries, nurses,
and social workers
number of teaching costs, so the
cannot be determined by
Normally the budget
by teachers are included in
this one does not
teachers, 175 aides and at least
total workers were included
by number list. No specific
and personal property

ditional employee benefits in the excludable category.

The board also accepted a tentative supplemental budget composed of self-supporting programs totaling \$261,000. That figure would increase should the district receive federal Emergency School Aid Act monies for the fourth year.

Other matters before the board included:

EXTENDED LEASE SOUGHT — The city's Department of Human Resources has asked the board for a three-year lease for 17th Street School as the property will qualify for federal renovation fundings through the Urban Renewal Agency. Department director Richard Ellwood notified the board the site would not qualify under the one-year leases that have been drawn up in this point for the various social agencies occupying the school that was closed in 1973. The board tabled the request.

TEACHER REIMBURSED — By a 7-1 margin, the board reimbursed teacher Gordon Flood \$119 for a portable cassette recorder stolen in February from the kindergarten under Saburo Brim's

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PLANT IN HIGHLAND AVENUE EARLY TODAY
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 of only \$50,470. The...
 source is gross state aid...
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lot to dynamite car

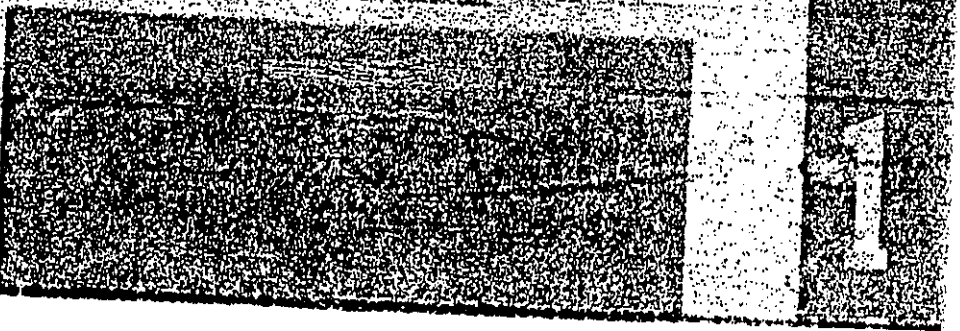
and will last time. The...
 is 25 years in prison...
 in the conviction (the...
 action. It asked to hear...
 evidence in favor of the...
 to bear the burden of...
 between...
 federal agent who...
 advised the plot to...
 of 103 Niagara St...
 and the agent...
 Smith's claim...
 willing to be an in...
 Police Poterius said

getting a conviction for a promotion then...
 contacting a thorough investigation...
 He said Miss Brown was never warned...
 about the threat to her life, the agent did...
 not follow Smith closely and local police...
 were not notified of the investigation...
 "Maybe this Miss Brown, trust them (local...
 police) or maybe, just maybe, Russell was...
 convinced that if he brought it to local...
 authorities the case would be taken away...
 from him. Then Jimmy Kassel doesn't get...
 any glory."
 Mr. Poterius said his client "certainly...
 isn't the brightest guy in the world" but...
 agreeing to help Smith but maybe "that's...
 what friends are for."

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 paper boxes from area stores and stacks...
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 He said the paper is valued at about \$50 a...
 ball which puts the paper loss at \$50,000.
 "The market for this paper has gone up...
 in recent months and we were shipping it...
 out," said Mr. LaRoche.
 Although the building was two feet...
 full of paper, contents inside were burning...
 and the cars were hot to the touch.
 Fly ash and soot from the fire drifted...
 from the burned out buildings and started...
 a small blaze in the Power City...
 Distribution Inc. 3123 Highland Ave. It...
 was reported a sprinkler system in the...
 building damaged the fire.



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 Department of Transportation this...
 morning to put them into service.
 DOT officials have agreed to permit...
 temporary two-way traffic on Third Street...
 south of the arterial on the condition that...
 the city modify the traffic lights. That...
 section of Third Street and the lights were...
 designed for one-way traffic southbound.
 City officials, acting without DOT's...
 permission, changed Third Street from...
 one-way to two-way traffic earlier this...
 year to provide easier access to the Hilton...
 Hotel. The two-way traffic, coupled with...
 the lack of traffic controls, contributed to...
 numerous accidents and near-accidents at...
 the intersection.

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5/17/76

Rapid spread of paper firm fire is probed

NIAGARA FALLS — The fire that destroyed the warehouse of the Consolidated Fibers Inc. and the plant of the EM Business Forms Inc. Friday traveled extremely fast.

"It traveled in a very horizontal manner, faster than we would normally expect with that kind of material," said Fire Chief Edwin Forster today.

The Fire Prevention Bureau continued poking through ruins of the warehouse today to ascertain if the blaze was the work of arsonists.

Damage in the blaze is expected to exceed \$200,000.

"It could have had a helper," said the chief as he speculated on the rapid spread of flames. The warehouse was loaded with 10,000 tons of corrugated which was in the process of being shipped out to customers.

He said all material has certain flame spread characteristics and that the surface flame spread here "was almost phenomenal."

He would not speculate on whether arson was involved, and said a report on the possibility would be released in several days.

"We want to get more information," he said.

Fire hoses continued to pour water on the smoldering warehouse ruins today. Location of the hoses was changed every several hours.

Chief Forster also said his department did not have a damage estimate and wouldn't until all insurance reports are in.

However, the president of the EM Business Forms said Friday damage to the printing firm would run from \$50,000 to \$50,000.

The fire put 15 EM employees out of work and ended a planned major expansion of the company in coming months.

The offices of the Tract 2 Betterment Inc. also suffered smoke and water damage. The offices, the print shop and the warehouse were located in the former Moore Business Forms complex.

EM Business Forms was formed by former Moore employees when Moore ceased operations in the building four years ago.

Value of the paper in the warehouse was set at about \$50,000 by an employee of Consolidated.



KISS FOR THE QUEEN — Mr. and Mrs. C. Donald Peterson congratulate their daughter Barbara, the new Miss USA, during a press conference Sunday morning in her room in Howard Johnson's Motor Inn. The daughter of a Minnesota Supreme Court associate judge will compete in the Miss Universe contest in Hong Kong July 10. Barbara Elaine Peterson won her title Saturday night in the Niagara Falls Convention Center. Gazette Photo

Beauty winner's goal is law school

By REBECCA GIVING
Gazette Staff Writer

NIAGARA FALLS — If Barbara Peterson, the new Miss USA, hadn't been in Niagara Falls Saturday night she would have been on the campus of St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minn., taking a political science final.

The 21-year-old Minnesota Beauty with the dark brown hair was surrounded by her family during the pageant week. Their closeness was apparent Sunday morning at Barbara's first press conference. Her mother and father, two brothers and sister were there with her.

The 20th Miss USA handled her first press conference — sitting up in bed in white robe with ash and crown on — with calm sureness.

Wearing a crown isn't new for her; she's won three other pageants in the past. And giving up a year of her life to take on the demands of a queen isn't novel to her either. "I took a year off school when I was Miss Minneapolis Aquacentennial," she said. Barbara is a junior at St. Olaf's and intends to finish school and hopefully go on to law school. The interruptions just draw the education process out for her. "I enjoy school. But this year will be an education in itself," Barbara said.

Barbara is very patriotic, and uses this to explain why she entered the Miss USA pageant in the first place. Barbara says "there is so much I can do for my country."

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This is one way America has gone through trials and tribulations in the last few years but it is still the best country in the world."

In her travels, Barbara will be called upon to meet and greet people from all walks of life. She shouldn't have any problem handling this aspect of her reign. According to her father, Associate Supreme Court Judge C. Donald Peterson, Barbara has had the opportunity through him to meet and talk with Chief Justice Warren E. Burger and the young Swedish King, Carl Gustaf, when he was visiting the United States.

Barbara's mother intends to keep an eye on her daughter to make sure she doesn't become too sure of herself in the wrong way. Gretchen Peterson is proud of her daughter and believes the qualities she has instilled in her since childhood will stay with her in the coming year. If not, she

London-Joe Fallica sister and dancer in looks to be there to help her daughter back on course.

In July Barbara will be in Hong Kong to participate in the Miss Universe contest. She's already being trained for the event. Shortly after winning her title Saturday night a representative from Hong Kong presented her with a hand-carved ancient Chinese statue of the Goddess of Beauty.

Sunday morning, less than 12 hours after winning the crown, Barbara was still glowing — so she calls it — and waiting to hear what her schedule will be in the next future.

Lightning starts \$15,000 house fire

LOCKPORT — An estimated \$15,000 damage was done to the house of attorney Samuel Sambone, 27 Harding St. Sunday evening when a fire was sparked by lightning.

Assistant Fire Chief William Crecelius said the fire was confined to the roof and attic. The living quarters escaped damage.

The fire came during a thunder storm which unleashed 1.3 inches of rain on the city. Over two inches fell between 8:30 and 9:30 p.m.

The heavy rains caused flash floods in several areas and resulted in power failures which disrupted 300 residences and businesses for 10 hours.

The mayor has ordered firefighters to snake truck out to Widenawes Marina in order to pump out three feet of water covering East Market Street.

Mayor Michael Shimmy said most of the rain fell within a half hour time, even hitting storm sewers and sending flood water into the South Mill Glades, East Market and Church streets areas.

Donald Sawyer, manager of New York State Electric and Gas Co. said the storm surge put power to about 150,000 people served by the Five Street Substation in Lewiston. The Cling Super Dam and Twin Falls.

Samuel Tavano ruling delayed

LOCKPORT — State Supreme Court Justice Gilbert R. King today indefinitely delayed deciding whether to drop three official misconduct charges lodged by a grand jury against former County Attorney Samuel L. Tavano.

Mr. Tavano was indicted on the charges in connection with the Niagara County insurance racket in which his brother, Robert L. Tavano, was convicted of racketeering more than \$1,000,000 in county funds.

Robert Tavano was the former county insurance agent.

Samuel Tavano has been accused of racketeering with insurance activity in Niagara County since the late 1950s.

County prosecutors billed to return indictments.

Justice King was scheduled to entertain a motion by Tavano's attorney Harold E. Pappinger to dismiss the indictment on the basis of insufficient evidence at the county Courthouse today.

Special Prosecutor Patrick Bergin has opposed the motion on that basis, but said it was unjust to prosecute Mr. Tavano on the charges when a number of other county officials were responsible for similar actions but were not indicted by the grand jury.

He said the grand jury chose to indict Mr. Tavano, but now it's up to the judge. Justice King's ruling was delayed because a number of county officials would not say who these charges were.

Court officials could give no reason why they said Bergin and Justice King were not applicable or pertinent.

N.T. school pact runs into impasse

NORTH TAWANANDA — An impasse has been reached in contract talks between the school district and the North Tawanda Teachers Assn.

Contract talks since 1974 have been under teachers' union.

Both sides have asked the Public Employees Relations Board to appoint a fact finder.

One of the issues affecting negotiations is a wage freeze imposed by the Board of Education under a \$1.5 million restrictive budget adopted last year.

Further details are not known through Calvin Cooper, an arbitrator for the teachers union, said. There are many other matters being negotiated.

Unionizing the military

By JACK RYAN
GARRISON is a man of iron will. He is a member of the Communist Party, and he is a member of the military. He is a member of the military because he is a member of the Communist Party. He is a member of the Communist Party because he is a member of the military.

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3 noted area men to receive honorary degrees from NU

DEAR ...
WATSON ...
WATSON ...

Hearing scheduled on Irqquois rate

ALABAMA ...

Convention center payment adds \$10 to city tax rate

MAGUIRE ...

Dealers Will Hoist CAST ALUMINUM OUTDOOR FURNITURE EXTRA SPECIAL! 5 Piece

OUTDOOR ANTIQUE

5 PC. OUTDOOR SET

6 PC. BIRETTE OPAQUE GLASS TOP TABLE

POOL ANGES

Dealers Will Hoist CAST ALUMINUM OUTDOOR FURNITURE EXTRA SPECIAL! 5 Piece

OUTDOOR ANTIQUE
 Bamboo metal yellow fiberglass round table top with yellow wicker body umbrella. Arm chairs with heavy duty vinyl-casting. Was \$89.95 ... NOW \$429.95

5 PC. OUTDOOR SET
 5 Towel boxes, metal, white fiberglass round table top with yellow wicker body umbrella. Arm chairs with heavy duty vinyl-casting. Was \$89.95 ... NOW \$429.95

6 PC. BIRETTE OPAQUE GLASS TOP TABLE
 On vertical chrome finished pedestal base, 4 vinyl chairs. Reg. \$179.95 ... ONLY \$579.95

POOL ANGES
 Fine Swivel Patio Only

... Mr. J. J. ...

Union leader is angry after impa-
in talks with paper plant official

Mrs. Murphy resigns as head of infirmary

Lockport stor-
hut by robbe-

... Mrs. Murphy ...