



HALF MILLION DOLLAR FIRE DESTROYS TOWNSON BUILDING



AN OVERFLOW CROWD of Republicans from Cherokee, Clay and Graham Counties gathered Saturday night at O'Dell's in Murphy for the annual Lincoln Day Dinner. (Photo by Dave Bruce)

Scott Harvey Speaks At Lincoln Day Dinner

An overflow crowd of 175 persons attended the Lincoln Day Dinner Saturday night at O'Dell's Restaurant. Republicans from Cherokee, Clay and Graham Counties attended. Congressional candidate W. Scott Harvey was the featured speaker for the event.

Harvey paid tribute to GOP gubernatorial candidates Jim Gardner and Jack Stickley and predicted the winner of the May primary will be elected governor in November.

"We're going to put a new image in Raleigh, we're going to get there," he said. He called Gardner and Stickley "excellent candidates."

Harvey said a Republican-controlled General Assembly would be needed to work with the new governor.

"I hope there are many here who will make themselves candidates for the General Assembly and Senate," he added.

"For 68 years, progress in North Carolina has lagged behind the rest of the states," Harvey declared.

"Our schools leave plenty to be desired and our economy in Western North Carolina leaves a lot to be desired," he added.

Harvey said better schools and better roads are the primary needs in the western area.

He challenged the group to "put new emphasis on the development of our schools and our roads."

Turning to his own race for the 11th District Congressional Seat, Harvey called for the election of a Republican controlled House of Representatives in Washington.

"With Republicans in power you'll find important com-



W. SCOTT HARVEY, candidate for the Republican nomination for the 11th District Congressional Seat, was the featured speaker at the Lincoln Day Dinner Saturday night. (Photo by Dave Bruce)

mittee chairmanships in the hands of reasonable men," he said.

Harvey expressed support for the war in Vietnam, but said, "I think it is time for a change in the management of that war."

Mrs. John Dickey served as toastmistress for the dinner. Ed Hyde introduced Harvey. Don Ramsey concluded the meeting with remarks and introductions of special guests.

Growers To Be Trained

U. S. Secretary of Labor W. Willard Wirtz and Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare John W. Gardner jointly announced Monday approval of a \$12,265 grant for training 30 individuals from

Murphy as tomato growers. The six-week course will be given at the Tri-County Technical Institute. The Federal grant was approved under the manpower development and training act.

Damage totaling perhaps as much as \$500,000 resulted Sunday night when the Townson Building on Peachtree St. was destroyed by fire.

Ten businesses and offices were destroyed by the blaze. They are Murphy Tire and Appliance Co., Radio Station WCVP, Blake Realty Co., Western Union, Rivera Beauty Salon, the law offices of Christopher, Jenkins and Hoover, the offices of Wells and West Plumbing Co., the Cherokee County Selective Service office, the Federal Land Bank office and the Cherokee County School Board's office for the Elementary and Secondary Education Program.

The fire was discovered shortly after 9 p. m. Sunday and firemen worked throughout the night to contain the flames.

A strong wind out of the north threatened to spread the flames to the First Baptist Church.

Police Chief Pete Stalcup said the exact cause of the fire was not known, but he had no reason to suspect arson. He said the fire was believed to have started in the basement of the building and a check showed that all of the windows and doors of the building were secure.

Water from the fire hoses froze in the streets causing several icy patches for motorists bound to work Monday morning.

The Tarheel Restaurant and Kay's Kwick Lunch remained open all night to serve free coffee to the firemen.

The Andrews Volunteer Firemen assisted in battling the fire.

W. D. Townson, owner of the building, said "It will be rebuilt. I want to get it back in operation as quick as I can." He said the building was constructed in 1952.

Pete Rumble, manager of Murphy Tire and Appliance, said everything in his store which occupied the first floor and basement of the building, was destroyed except his accounts receivable records.

These records were removed, Rumble said, by one of his employees, Harold Duncan and Paul Ridenhour. He said the two men wore gas masks to get to the cabinets containing the records.

Rumble said Wednesday he had opened an office to receive payments in a trailer between Gillespie's Fruit Stand and the Regal Hotel Building. The office will be open from 8 to 6 daily.

Tire service will be available in trailers in that alleyway by noon today (Thursday).

Rumble said a shipment of tires is enroute from Alabama and is expected to arrive this morning. Most tire sizes will be available in limited quantities, he added.

Rumble said he had not had an opportunity to determine the amount of merchandise destroyed in the fire.

Radio station WCVP was able to resume broadcasting Monday at the station's transmitter site on the Andrews Highway.

The station is operating with equipment loaned by Radio Station WKRK. The news teletype facilities of

WKRK are also being shared with WCVP.

"I appreciate the splendid cooperation of Paul Ridenhour and WKRK," said Max Blakemore, owner of WCVP. Blakemore said no arrangements have been made yet for resumption of service by Western Union, which he operates here.

Mrs. Lucy McKeon operator of Rivera Beauty Salon could not be contacted prior to press time. A family spokesman said she had not determined her future plans for the salon.

Christopher, Jenkins and Hoover has established offices in the Mauney Building on Tuesday. Lonnie Hoover

said "we believe our files will be salvaged."

The Elementary and Secondary Education office reopened in the Hill Building on Tennessee St. Tuesday. Coordinator Fred Martin, Jr. said all of the office records were destroyed.

The draft board opened a new office in the Hill Building on Tennessee St. Wednesday morning.

It has not been determined whether the board's records will be salvaged.

Money collected for the Heart Fund Balloon Day on Saturday was also lost. Mrs. Margie Dockery said \$91 had been left at the radio station for safekeeping.

10 Businesses & Offices Destroyed; Firemen Fight All-Night Battle



FLAMES LEAP THROUGH THE ROOF of the Townson Building as firemen from Murphy and Andrews battle to contain the blaze. Ten businesses and offices were destroyed by the fire. (Photo by Jack Owens)

WKRK are also being shared with WCVP.

"I appreciate the splendid cooperation of Paul Ridenhour and WKRK," said Max Blakemore, owner of WCVP.

Blakemore said no arrangements have been made yet for resumption of service by Western Union, which he operates here.

Mrs. Lucy McKeon operator of Rivera Beauty Salon could not be contacted prior to press time. A family spokesman said she had not determined her future plans for the salon.

Christopher, Jenkins and Hoover has established offices in the Mauney Building on Tuesday. Lonnie Hoover

said "we believe our files will be salvaged."

The Elementary and Secondary Education office reopened in the Hill Building on Tennessee St. Tuesday. Coordinator Fred Martin, Jr. said all of the office records were destroyed.

The draft board opened a new office in the Hill Building on Tennessee St. Wednesday morning.

It has not been determined whether the board's records will be salvaged.

Money collected for the Heart Fund Balloon Day on Saturday was also lost. Mrs. Margie Dockery said \$91 had been left at the radio station for safekeeping.

WHERE IT STARTED - The fire that destroyed the Townson Building Sunday night is shown in its early stages in the basement at the rear of the building. (Photo by Jim Morgan)

Walls Youth Faces Another Amputation

Roy Walls of Rt. 4, Murphy was to have had his left leg amputated six inches below the hip Tuesday afternoon at Erlanger Hospital in Chattanooga.

The 18-year-old student at Hiwassee Dam High School had his foot amputated last week.

His mother, Mrs. Edwin P. Walls, told The Scout in a telephone interview from Chattanooga Monday the new amputation was necessary due to infection.

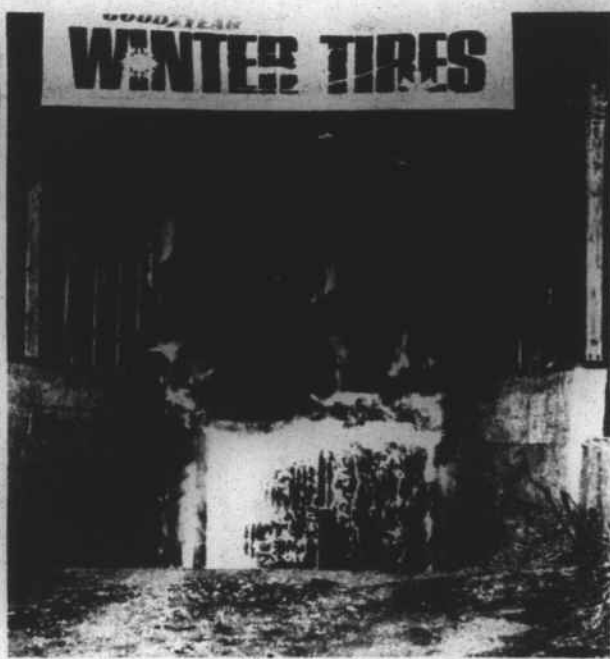
Walls was injured when he fell on a knife at a cabin near Tellico Plains, Tenn. on February 10.

Bank Plans New Building

W. Frank Forsyth, President of Citizens Bank & Trust Company, announced today that the bank would build a new modern building on the Henry House Lot on Tennessee St. in Murphy.

The building will have one and possibly two drive-in windows, adequate parking facilities, and it is felt that this new modern building will add greatly to the services of the bank's friends and customers, Forsyth said.

James Padgett, of Asheville will be the architect and is now working on plans and specifications. Work will begin when plans are completed.



WHERE IT STARTED - The fire that destroyed the Townson Building Sunday night is shown in its early stages in the basement at the rear of the building. (Photo by Jim Morgan)

11 Forest Fires Set

Eleven forest fires in Cherokee County Sunday were deliberately set, according to County Forest Ranger Harold Hatchett.

He said about three acres of woodland were destroyed by the fires.

Hatchett added that on one has been charged, but he has been questioning several persons in connection with the fires.

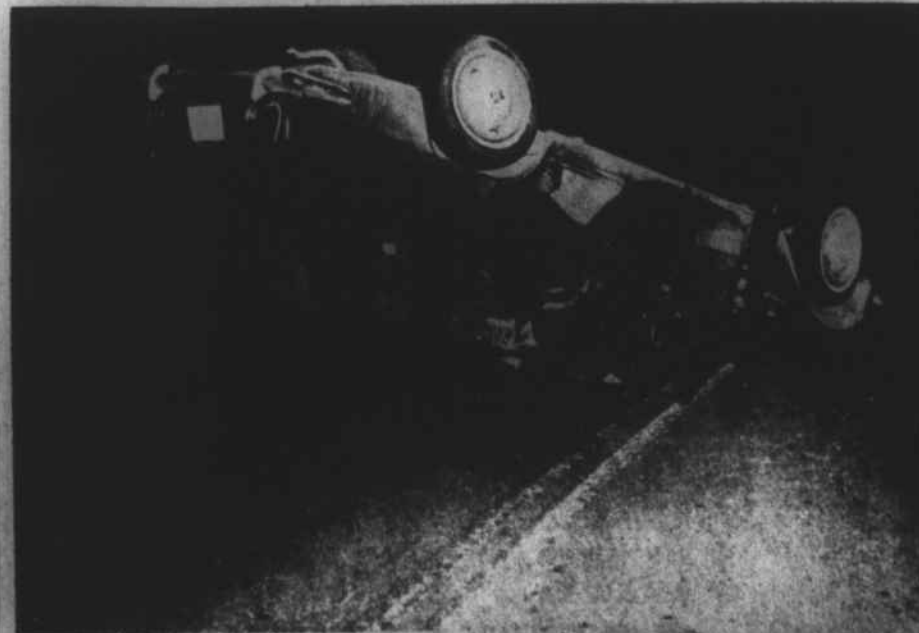
The fires were in the Peachtree, Morgan Hill, Old Murphy Road, Axley Bridge and Reservoir Road sections.

"The woods are extremely dry now," Hatchett said. He pointed out that the last significant rain in the area was less than an inch which fell on February 2.

Since then, he said, the only precipitation has been .07 inch in the form of snow.



ONE OF THE VICTIMS OF A SIDESWIPING ACCIDENT Sunday afternoon is carried to a stretcher. Danny Radford, 19, of Rt. 2, Hayesville, was a passenger in a car driven by Virginia Farmer Hill, 36, of Rt. 5, Murphy. Police Chief Pete Stalcup said the Hill car, going east on Hiwassee St., crossed the center line in front of the Post Office and sideswiped a car going west driven by Betty Sue Loudermilk, 18, of Murphy. The Hill car swerved into the driveway beside the Post Office, hit and glanced off a wall, and crashed into the home of Mrs. Dot Cooper. The Loudermilk car continued down the street and ran over the curb at the intersection with Sycamore St. All of the occupants of the cars were released after treatment. Virginia Hill was charged with reckless driving. Stalcup said. (Photo by Jack Owens)



Dr. Walter Mauney of Murphy escaped injury last Wednesday night when his car overturned in the middle of US 64 at the junction with Martins Creek Road in Cherokee County. Police Chief Pete Stalcup said Mauney was charged with driving under the influence. (Photo by Jack Owens)