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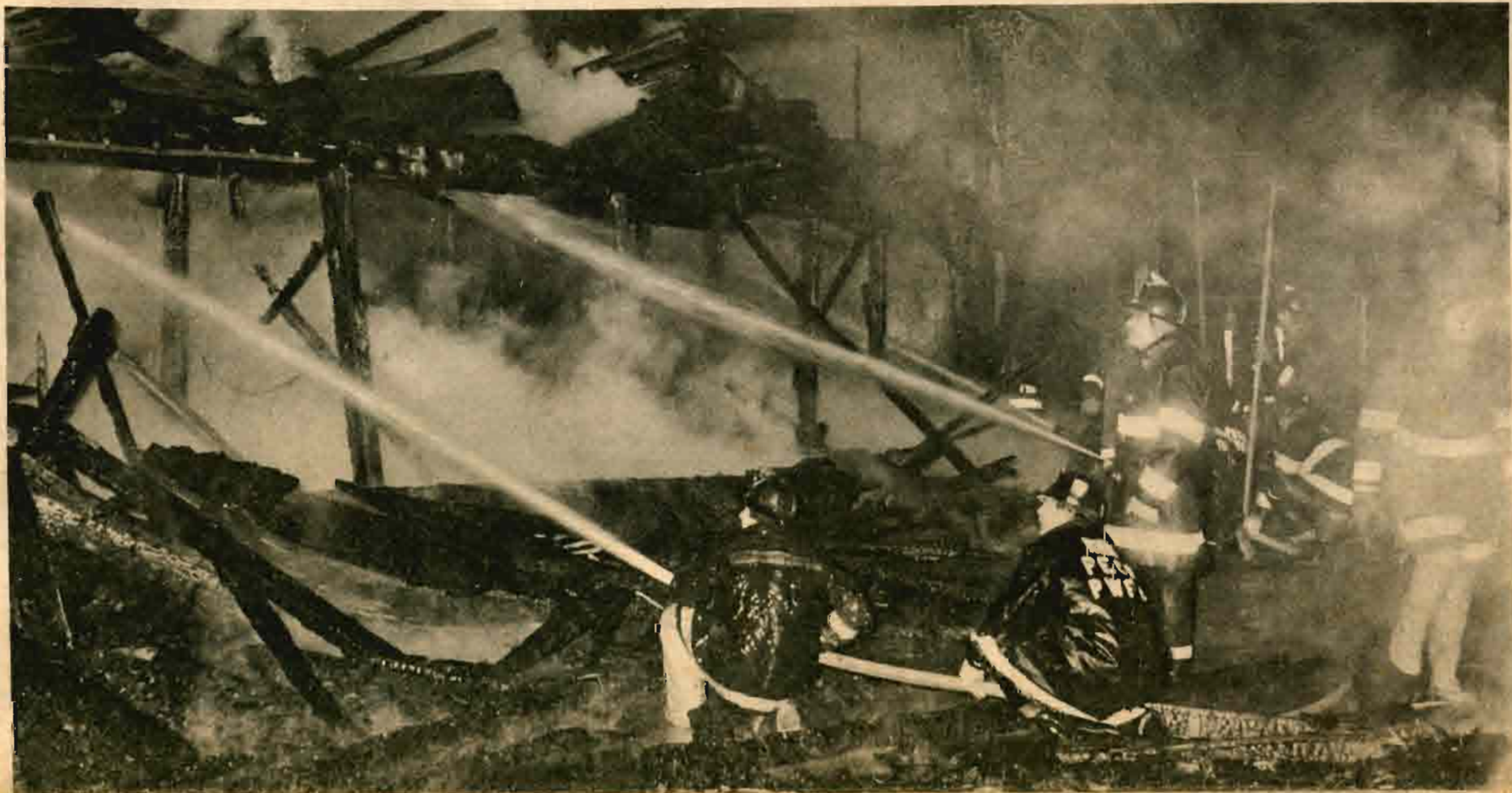
# Port Washington Mail

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The Port Washington Mail

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 1976





**BLAZE RAGED** for more than six hours, temporarily halting service on the Long Island Railroad during the early morning fire of undetermined origin Sunday, Feb. 15, at the Port Washington Lumber Company, 100 South Bayles Ave. According to Port's Fire Marshal Robert Cocks, "The heat was so bad that it cracked windows of homes across the tracks about 150 feet away." The alarm sounded at 1:32 a.m., and the last fire truck did not leave until 8 a.m. LIRR service to and from Port Washington resumed about 6:30 a.m. Cocks said the huge lumber shed containing lumber, machinery and tools, estimated in excess of \$100,000, was a total loss. More pictures page 5.



Photo By Willard A. Baker

## Fire Damages Port Washington Lumber Company

A fire of undetermined origin, under immediate investigation of the Nassau County Fire Marshal's Office, completely destroyed a 140-foot storage shed early Sunday resulting in excess of \$100,000 damage to lumber and building supplies of the Port Washington Lumber Company, 100 South Bayles Ave.

Four volunteer firemen were injured included Michael

Pickering of 4 Kirkwood Road, and Pat Caliendo of 8 Franklin Avenue, both suffering smoke inhalation and treated at the scene. Vincent Maggio of 52 Graywood Road, suffered a puncture wound of the left foot and Gary Brower of 27 Second Ave. sustained second-degree burns of the right hand and right leg. Both were taken to St. Francis Hospital in the Fire

Department ambulance.

Port's Vamps, fighting the fire from 1:32 a.m., when the alarm was sounded until 8 a.m., are credited with preventing the fire from spreading to another storage shed of similar size and content. However, the heat of the fire was so intense, a fire truck approximately 150 feet away was scorched and its headlights melted, and both its windshields

# Supervisor Tully Assails State Environmental Act

IN A STATEMENT submitted to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, North Hempstead Town Supervisor Michael J. Tully, Jr. strongly objected to the State's Environmental Quality Review Act in its rules and regulations for environmental impact statements and the enormous gray area and confusion resulting from the act. Supervisor Tully called for repeal of the act.

"It is my sincere belief", said Tully, "that the State Environmental Review Act; as presently written, is detrimental to the social and economic well being of our Town and I therefore urgently recommend its repeal. This is precisely the kind of legislation that gives the environmental movement an undeservedly bad reputation; the kind of bureaucratic wastefulness that will produce no appreciable environmental benefit, but instead will give rise to needless and endless litigation, retard economic growth and development and create costly delays, thereby hastening the demise of small business while

severely restricting the efficiency of local government."

THE LAW requires that several environmental determinations be made in an impact statement before any new project is begun anywhere in New York State. Such consideration includes affect on drainage erosion, nesting of birds, building on wetlands historic areas etc, and that the municipality (town, village, etc.) be responsible for the enforcement of the act.

When determination is made

that an impact statement is required, the applicant has 60 days to prepare and submit the statement. The act divides projects into two classifications: Type I which involves activities that are likely to always require an impact statement such as clearing more than 100 acres, a new airport, building 50 housing units in an unsewered area or 250 units in a sewer area and building on wetlands or flood planes; Type II involves ac-

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## Library Budget Rises

AT ITS meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 10, the Board of Trustees of the Port Washington Public Library adopted a preliminary budget for the 1976-77 fiscal year. The preliminary budget calls for an estimated 7 cent increase in the tax rate, one cent less than last year's increase. This proposed operating budget totals \$866,580, an increase of \$78,705 over last year.

The Library Board scheduled a public hearing on the preliminary

Budget to be held Thursday, Feb. 26, at 8 p.m. in the library's Lapham Meeting Room. In discussing the Board action, Richard D. Whittemore, President of the Board of Trustees, indicated that most of the increases were required by escalating costs of such items as utility rates, service contracts, and building maintenance and operation expenses.

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cracked. Windows at the home of Alphonse Raimo, 99 Haven Ave., were also cracked from the heat. At 1:51 a.m., Fire Chief Burt Monfort requested Police to notify the Long Island Railroad to terminate all service at Great Neck. Service to and from Port was resumed about 6:30 a.m. The Manhasset-Lakeville Fire Department was notified at 1:39 a.m., to stand by. Part of the shed

rented by Walter Schendel of Brentwood, stored a payloader and other machinery which was also completely destroyed.

Police tried to contact the lumber company owned, George Latham Jr., of Old Westbury, but were unsuccessful. However, his son, Jefferson M. Latham of Roslyn was notified. The lumber company was established about 54 years ago.





Gutted scene at the Port Washington Lumber Company Sunday after fire caused over \$100,000 in damages.

Photo by Everitt J. Hehn

## From the Police Blotter

TWO CARS driving in the opposite direction collided on North Plandome Road at Yacht Club Drive, Monday, at 3:22 p.m. Police said a car, operated by Douglas Schlingheyde of 29 Highland Ave., was northbound on North Plandome Road and a car, driven by John F. Drummey of Manhasset, was southbound when the accident occurred. Drummey was issued a summons for an expired registration and no insurance. Schlingheyde's car, with left front damage, was towed away. The other car sustained left side damage.

THERE WAS a three-car crash February 10 at 7:33 p.m., on Main Street and Madison Avenue. According to the police, a car, driven by Elsie Cohen of Levittown, northbound coming out of Madison Avenue was collided

Frank Columbo of 117 Cow Neck Road, called headquarters to report seeing smoke inside his place of business, "Villa Rudy," 14 Main St. Police said several ceiling tiles had fallen from the ceiling in the P & T Laundercenter, 18 Main St. and landed on top of one of the gas dryers and began to burn, creating the smoke. Long Island Lighting Company was notified to turn off the gas.

PORT'S VAMPS responded to a general alarm of fire Saturday, February 14 at 6:47 p.m., at Dolphin Green. Police said an oil burner backfired under 21 Dolphin Green and the assistant superintendent, Richard Luckman, took care of the burner. No damage was reported in the building.

THERE WAS a car fire

## Wanted



COMPOSITE SKETCH OF suspect who allegedly stabbed Michael Fraumeni, 14-year-old son of Bay Bowl owner Joe Fraumeni, with a steak knife Saturday, Feb. 7, at his father's bowling alley in Soundview

## Port Man to Head Atlantic Company

Harold A. Eckmann of Port Washington has been elected chairman and chief executive officer of the Atlantic Companies, a New York-based property-liability insurance group consisting of the Atlantic Mutual Insurance Company and the Centennial Insurance Company.

Eckmann joined Atlantic in 1949, coming from Johnson & Higgins in New York. He became manager of Atlantic's North Carolina office in 1957; moved to the home office as assistant secretary in 1960; became vice president in charge of the Metropolitan Division in 1962, and was elevated to senior executive vice president in 1966. He has served as president since 1970.

Born in New York, Mr. Eckmann was educated at the Power Memorial Academy, the U.S.



HAROLD ECKMANN

America and a trustee of the Greenwich Savings Bank, New York





"A RAGING FIRE" said Port Fire Marshal Robert Cocks of blaze which broke out in Port Washington Lumber Yard early Sunday Morning. (Everitt Hehn Photo)



# 'Raging' fire hits lumber yard

By Amy Pett

The fire which hit the Port Washington Lumber Yard at 100 South Bayles Ave. early Sunday morning destroyed a 140 by 26 foot storage shed, about \$70,000 worth of lumber and building supplies, and a payloader and other machinery; slightly injured five firemen; stopped Long Island

Railroad service between Great Neck and Port for four and a half hours; and, because of its intense heat, cracked windows in homes on Haven Avenue and damaged one of the Port Washington Fire Department's trucks. Because of the large loss in the fire and its undetermined origin it is currently under investigation by the

Nassau County Fire Marshal's office.

The alarm sounded at 1:32 a.m. on Feb. 15. All Port fire companies responded under the direction of Fire Chief Burtis Monfort. Chief Monfort quickly requested aid from the Manhasset - Lakeville Fire Department, which sent one truck to the scene and had three others stand by in case another fire broke out elsewhere in Port.

At 1:51 a.m. Chief Monfort asked the railroad to terminate its service into Port Washington because the lumber yard is located along the tracks, and trains did not begin running into Port again until about 6:30 a.m.

The storage shed was completely destroyed, as were its contents. In addition to lumber and building supplies, construction machinery was stored in a part of the shed rented by Walter Schendler of Brentwood. The lumber yard is owned by George Latham Jr. of Old Westbury.

Fire Marshal Bob Cocks said that another similar storage shed, located just 20 feet from the fire, was saved by efforts of the Port volunteer firemen, who soaked the building and kept the fire from spreading to it.

The truck which saved that building, a Protection Engine Company pumper, was standing

150 feet from the fire, but the heat was so intense that its lights were melted and its paint was scorched. The intense heat also cracked windows a block away on Haven Avenue.

The firemen injured while fighting the blaze were: Vincent Maggio of 52 Graywood Rd., who was treated at St. Francis Hospital for

a puncture wound of the foot; Gary Brower of 27 Second Ave., who was treated at St. Francis for first and second degree burns of the leg and hand; Jerry Christiansen of Edgewood Rd., who cut his hand; and Michael Pickering of 4 Kirkwood Rd. and Pat Caliendo of

*(Continued on Page 11)*



**FIREMEN STRUGGLE** to extinguish blaze at Port Lumber Yard early Sunday morning. (Everitt Hehn Photo)



**THE AFTERMATH:** About \$70,000 damage was done by fire at Port Lumber Yard this weekend. (Everitt Hehn Photo)



## **'Raging' fire** *(Continued from Page 1)*

18 Franklin Ave., both of whom were treated at the scene for smoke inhalation.

"It was a really raging fire," said Cocks.

The lumber yard is open for business this week, however, Latham said that the fire burned "mostly warm weather items"

like redwood, gutters, and roofing, and its results would not interfere with the firm's day - to - day operations.

"All the firemen of Port Washington really did a tremendous job of stopping the fire where they did," Latham said gratefully. "It's a miracle that the whole yard didn't go."