

Abandoned Grade School Building Destroyed By Fire

Amidst a shortage of water in Mount Joy Borough, Saturday morning, the old grade school on Marietta Avenue was demolished by fire. Eli Ginder and his wrecking crew from Manheim had started to demolish the building after being awarded the bid at a special school board meeting the previous week.

The men started to remove the flooring in the rear of the building and since they had removed the floor from the basement gymnasium, they started to burn "unusable" small pieces of wood on the ground. The fire spread out of control in minutes and traveled to the top of the building from where the entire roof started to blaze. They had made similar fires earlier in the week.

Richard Dillinger, on his way to work, saw the flames and called firemen and Martin Reese, who lives beside the

school on Delta Street, also called firemen after he realized that the workmen were not going to report the fire as getting out of control.

For two hours, the "scarce" borough water was used by nine hoses and two from relays from the Little Chicques Creek. At 10:00 a. m., Ray Myers, fire chief, ordered all hoses using water to cease but one.

Firemen were placed on the roofs of the closest properties to check on whether or not the fire might spread.

Spectator Injured

Mrs. Ralph Alleman injured her ankle while watching the fire and was conveyed to the Lancaster General Hospital via the Mount Joy ambulance. She stepped into a hole in the street in front of the school.

Neighborhood Firemen Assist

Approximately 200 firemen from Mount Joy, Elizabethtown Florin, Rheems, Marietta, Lan-

disville, Manheim, and Salunga helped to fight the blaze. The local fire police kept the people at a safe distance from the fire and also rerouted the traffic. The local women's auxiliary was on the scene and gave firemen lemonade and sandwiches.

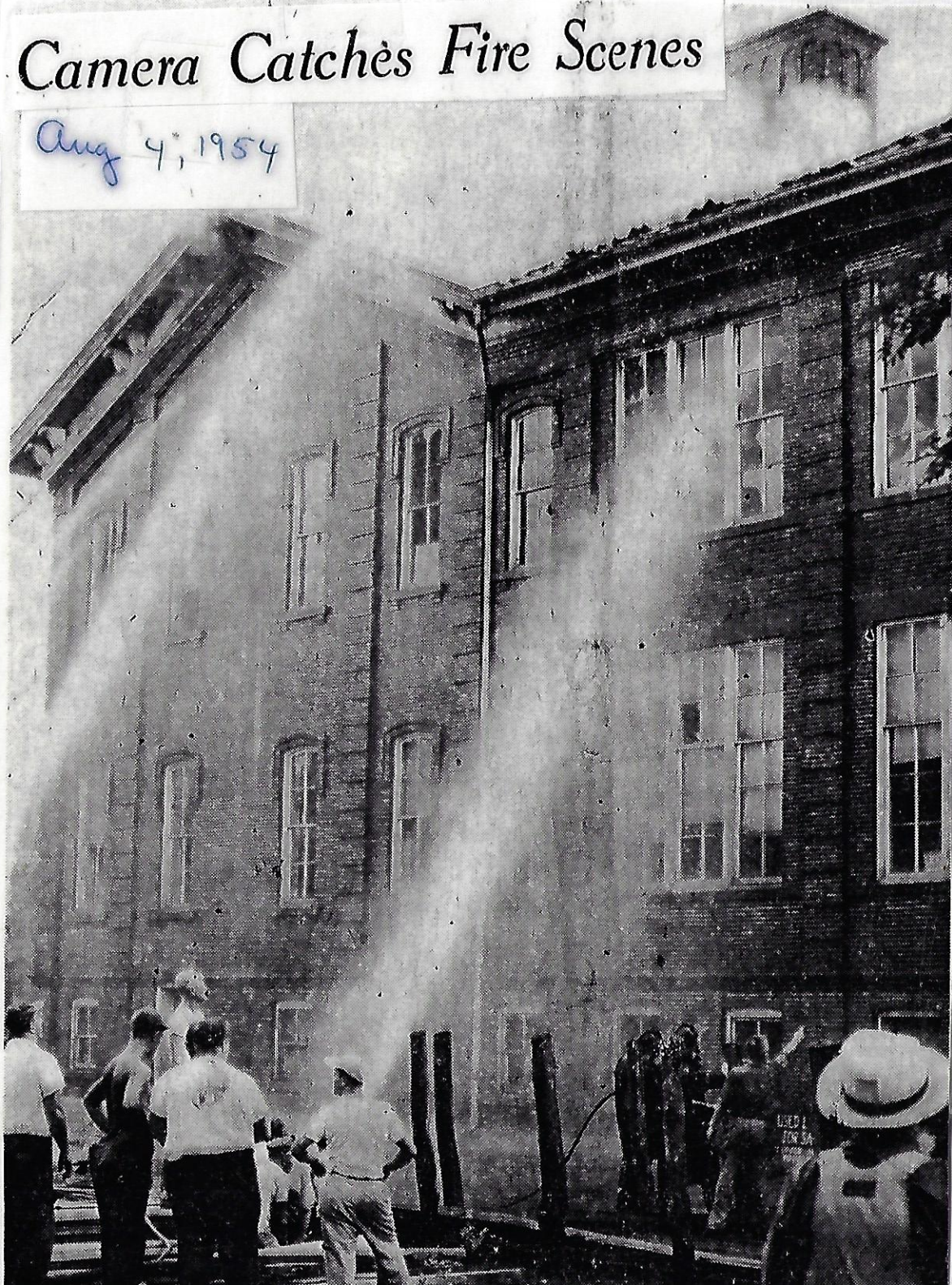
Firemen Called Three Times

After fighting the fire from 8:00 a. m. until after noon time, firemen were again called out at 8:30 p. m. Again at 1:30 a. m. the firemen were called when the fire flared up. This time, several firemen stayed at the scene until 6:00 a. m. to keep a check on it.

The old school bell which remained in the bell tower during the fire is practically ruined. When the bell tower burned and fell, the bell fell to the second floor. When fire broke out again in the evening, it fell to the first floor. The heat caused it to lose its shape although it is in one piece.

Camera Catches Fire Scenes

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The grade school is shown as it appeared after the fire was put out.

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