

Tom's copy
Souceis

Historic College Chapel Burns



STUNNED SPECTATORS watch as smoke pours from the roof of the Immaculata Chapel.

We Will Rebuild, Of Course!

by Dorothy N. Hoobler

Little knots of people stood in stunned silence, many with tears in their eyes as they watched the flames lick at the crumbling roof of the Immaculata Chapel. The smoke, sometimes gray and sometimes black, billowed from the gaping, open circle which had once held the beautiful rose window. Breaking from the intense heat, sounds of crackling glass punctuated the air. Bystanders involuntarily shuddered as it fell from the priceless, irreplaceable stained glass windows. The tall, red-tiled steeple, with its cross atop, was gone and the wooden louvered shutters crashed in flames. Wednesday, November 8, 1978, will go down in St. Marys history as one of its darkest, saddest days.

For 70 years, the Immaculata Chapel had been a landmark, a symbol of St. Marys, and now, like the walls of Biblical Jericho, it was tumbling down. There was no Joshua leading his band of trumpeters and marching men to cause the destruction, however. Instead, there were dozens of brave men with their helmets and their hoses, fighting a losing battle to save a chapel, an organ, marble altars, and years of history and tradition. But the flames spread rapidly, and although the men worked tirelessly, the fire was the victor.

At the foot of the recently repaired flight of steps leading to the Immaculata, Brother Augustine of the Society of the Friends of St. Pius X

was answering dozens of questions asked by news reporters and television cameramen alerted to the disaster. He managed a smile when he told me he had just talked with Father Hector Bolduc at the Queen of the Angels Chapel in Dickinson, Tex. Father Bolduc had announced emphatically, "We're going to rebuild the church, of course!" Director of this center, the Reverend Bolduc will fly in immediately to survey the damage.

Brother Augustine said the fire was discovered about 12:53, when two ladies passing by noticed the smoke, notified the cook, and the St. Marys Fire Department was called. Lunch was just over, and the painters had not yet climbed up on the high scaffolds. Four men, however, had resumed their repair work on the rotted steeple, replacing shingles and tile. Warned by an employee of the McElroy Plumbing and Heating Company, they were able to scramble to safety although smoke was already pouring out from under the false plaster ceiling. Brother Augustine said no torches were being used on the

repair work; he had no idea what had caused the fire, and would have to wait for the fire marshal's report. "Only God knows why it happened," he said. One of the ironies of the destructive fire, he observed, is that the colorful glass in the windows were made in a Munich factory destroyed by fire during an Allied bombing raid in World War II.

The cornerstone for the Gothic chapel called the Immaculata was laid on December 9, 1907, in the midst of a fierce winter storm. Dedicated on May 23, 1909, at an estimated cost of \$75,000, alumni and friends also contributed funds for the pastel Stations of the Cross, the oak pews, the windows, and the Italian marble altars. The pipe organ, given in 1926 in honor of Cornelius A. Shyne, was installed near the rose window. For all these years, the Immaculata has stood like a beacon on that little knoll, a source of beauty and pride to St. Marys residents of all faiths.

The chapel was still afire by late afternoon and, at that time, little had been saved from the sanctuary except the Holy Water font. When the heavy wooden doors were opened, intense heat had already charred the inner side into black cinders. The fire companies were concentrating their efforts on the north side of the Immaculata, hoping to protect the altars quarried and crafted in Carrara, Italy. Only a few of the windows remained intact. Behind the chapel, barns and a silo also caught fire, and some crews rushed to that area.

The stunned crowd stood at a respectful distance, admiring the efforts of the firefighters as they manned the writhing hoses, trying to protect and preserve some parts of the historic

Today I Watched Our Chapel Die

by Betty J. Pappas

We heard the fire engine as we were in Katie's Korner for lunch and didn't think too much about it. Then a young man came running in to get some keys and said there was a fire at the college. Again, we didn't think too much about it since there are brush fires this time of year. The fire alarm went off and Alex said, "Let's take our cameras and go see what the fire is all about." This is unusual since we never follow fires and never take pictures of fires because that's more for newspaper work and not for use in our type of publications. I almost said, "No," and stayed at the office, but then decided to go.

As we neared the college we saw the black smoke. Again I thought it was just a tree on fire, but when we approached the library and the billows of smoke were quite huge, I said, "Oh, my God, I hope it's not the chapel!" I will never forget the scene that greeted us as we rounded the corner. There were large flames licking at the roof of the chapel and the smoke was black and ugly.

We stopped and I took a couple of pictures and then the camera just hung around my neck. I wanted to cry. My mother drove up; she had seen the flames from their house. She and I stood there as grief-stricken as if it were our own homes. The flames ate at the interior and then we could see them in the choir loft behind the rose stained glass window that always was the jewel in the center of the crown of the chapel. I watched as the intense heat melted the lead and the colors melted away; one by one the windows popped . . . a sickening, stomach-sinking sound. They all were gone. And then, later on, the wooden scrollwork that held the stained glass windows burned away

until there was nothing but a gaping hole.

The fire consumed the inside of the chapel while the brave firemen and volunteers tried vainly to contain it with their lack of water and lack of equipment. A fire such as this needs big city equipment and lots of water; we had neither. Our men did a fantastic job with the help of units from neighboring towns. They not only had to fight the chapel fire but the fire in the barn and silo behind the chapel as well.

I'm not a Catholic, as many of you know. But we, Alex, I and my entire family, feel as deeply about that chapel and those college grounds as anyone born of the Catholic faith. I think that's the way it is with most people who have been raised in this community or who have lived in this town for any length of time. It's always been a part of this community; we identify with that chapel.

I'll never forget attending Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve in the chapel. There was snow on the ground -- a perfect Christmas setting with the chapel up on its mound and the lights leading up the steps. Inside it was quiet -- perfect for meditation and the Jesuit voices singing in such perfect and spine-tingling harmony was an impression that I have remembered over the last twenty-five years or so since I experienced it.

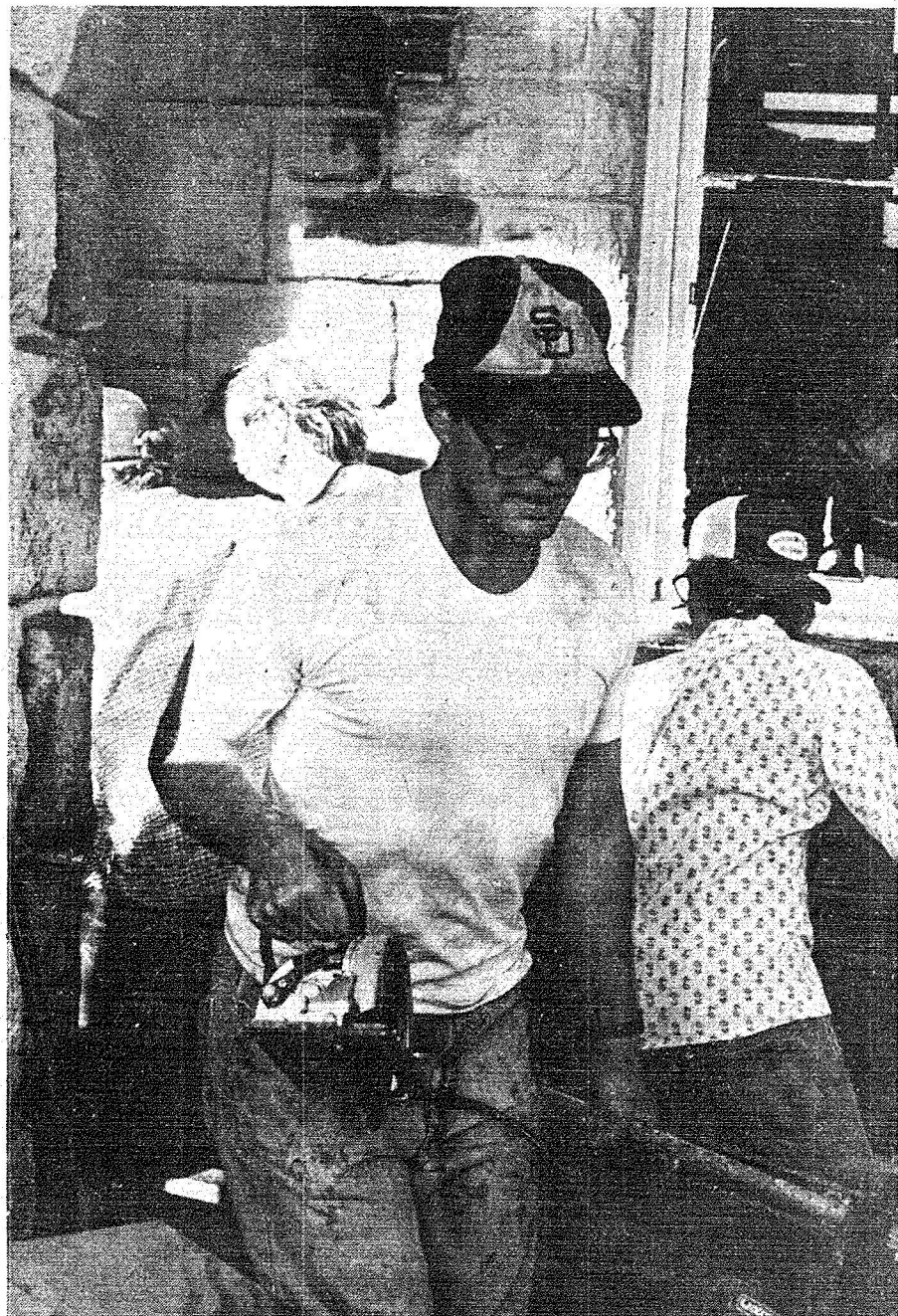
To me, the chapel died today and I mourn its loss along with the many who loved it for its beauty, its religious significance and its historical memories. It will never be the same. But, life goes on, we have our memories and the chapel will be rebuilt and restored. It will be different and it might even be more magnificent.

I can accept all that . . . but, today our chapel died and I cried.

Rossville, Emmett, Wamogo and Manhattan, as well as the ever-ready and well-trained St. Marys volunteers. I watched the men with admiration and respect, some in the regulation uniforms of their department, and the men from volunteer units in working garb, but all risking life and limb. The Pottawatomie County Ambulance Service Crew stood by. Thank God, they were able to do just that . . . stand by. Women from the community set up long tables of food, coffee, and cold tea for the firefighters, and how they must have appreciated that break from the frustrating job.

Sometimes it takes a tragedy to unite a community. Out of the flames came an outpouring of sympathy and concern for the members of the Society of Friends of St. Pius X, who had planned an Immaculata Rededication Ceremony for Easter Sunday. David Gayner, a spokesman for the Society, asked me to convey a message from Father Bolduc and the members, an expression of their deep thanks and appreciation to all the men of the fire-fighting crews, and to the people of St. Marys. Father Bolduc will say a special Mass at 9 a.m. Thursday, November 9 (this morning), on the chapel steps.

The Immaculata Chapel as we knew it is gone, but Mr. Gayner echoed that same, "We will rebuild" dedication. Although a historic landmark went up in smoke yesterday, these determined men and women are already planning to rekindle a beacon light of faith in a new Immaculata.



KARL STROMBERG carries tools out of tower. Karl has been working as a carpenter at the college for about two and a half months. In the background, firefighters battle blaze in tower.

LATEST BULLETIN . . .

In a telephone conversation with Fr. Hector Bolduc Thursday morning, he indicated that insurance men were coming to visit with him concerning the fire. There is blanket coverage on the property, Fr. Bolduc said, but how much will apply to the chapel remains to be seen.

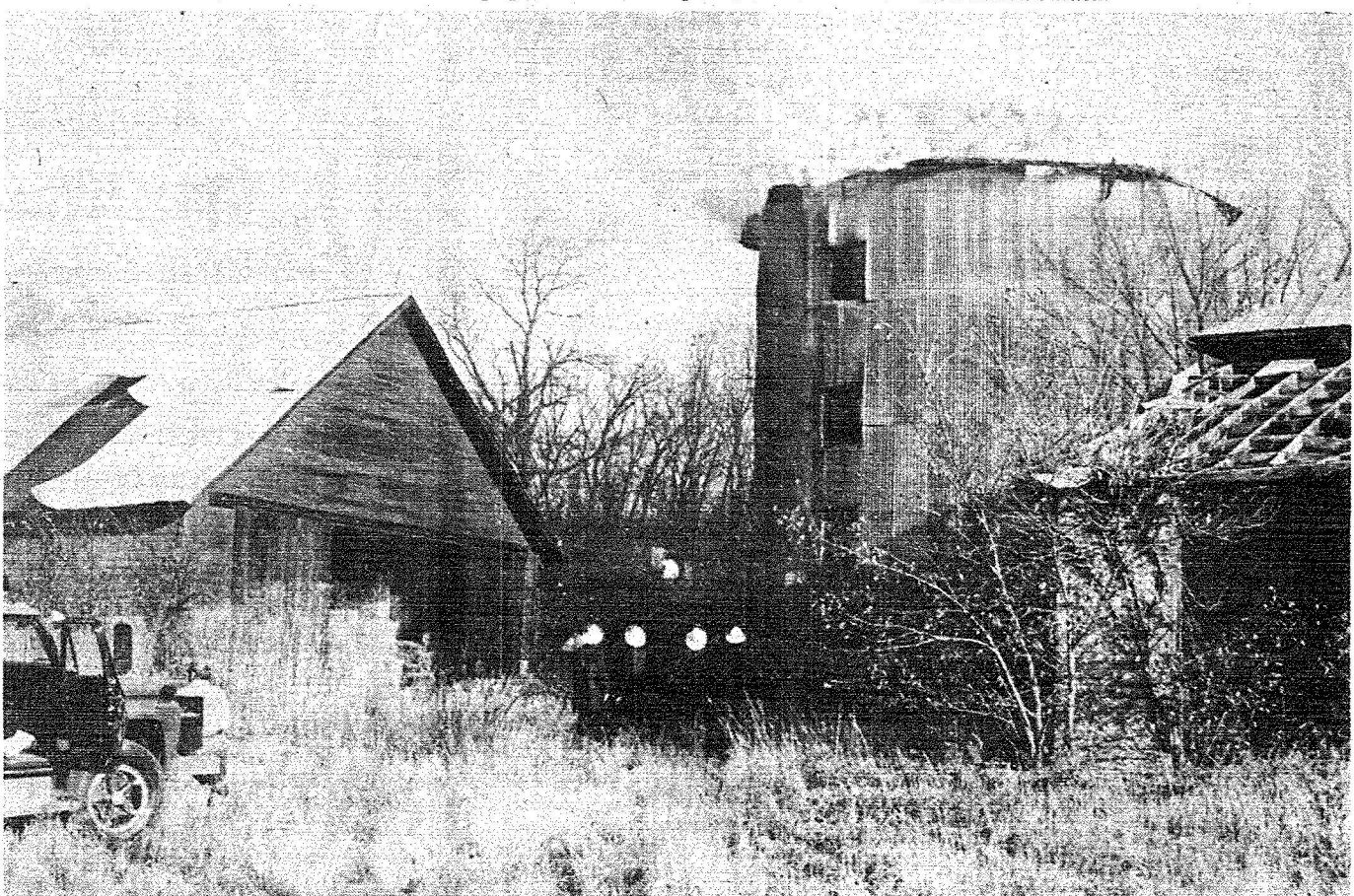
The chapel will be rebuilt as completely to the original state as possible. Crews are coming in from everywhere on Saturday to help with massive clean-up.

"Architects are coming Thursday or Friday to give professional opinions," Fr. Bolduc commented. "The walls appear to be structurally sound. We'll start right in as soon as the fire marshal gives permission -- today, if possible."

Weary-voiced, he continued, "Perhaps God gave us a reason to have more faith. In such difficult times, we feel our faith strengthened, rather than weakened. It was very difficult," he said when he first viewed the devastation. "We were so close to having the work completed."

He accompanied the firemen into the chapel last night, and the altars appeared to have only superficial damage. Miraculously, they seem to remain intact, although there is some slight chipping from falling debris. Three huge charred beams are hanging over the main altar, but Fr. Bolduc hoped to have a crane safely remove them today. "The real damage is to the stained glass windows, which are irreplaceable. We will pick up every bit of glass and, hopefully, some of them can be reconstructed." The heat melted the lead, causing some to fall.

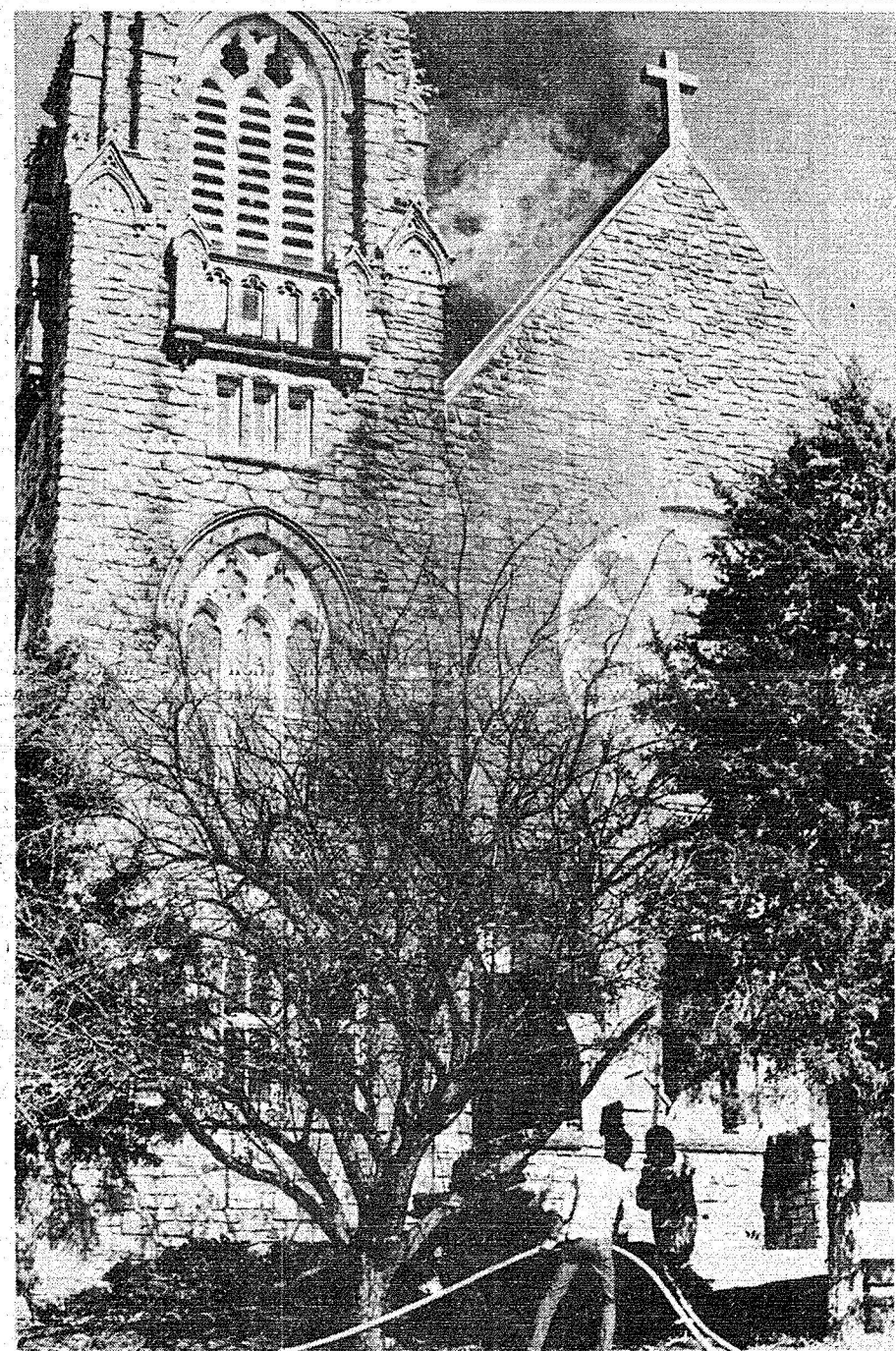
Father Bolduc again expressed his heartfelt thanks to the fire crews, and police department, and to all the St. Marys citizens who helped in any way. "WE WILL REBUILD!"



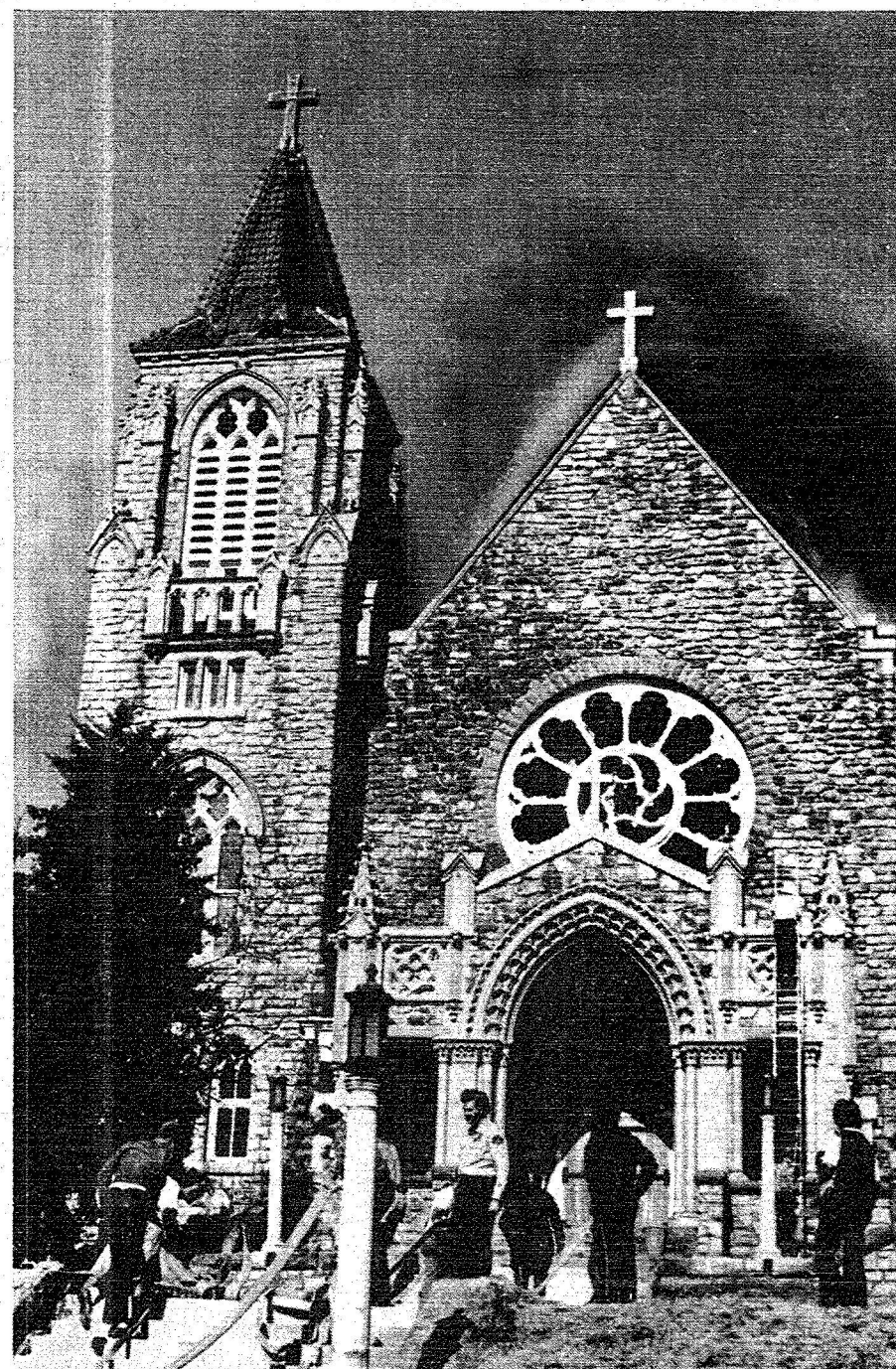
Silo north of college burning



A HEART-BREAKING, sickening sight. Fire destroys the beautiful 70-year-old sanctuary.



FIREMEN POSITION their hoses shortly after 1 p.m. as flames break through the tiled roof.



ONE LAST FAREWELL look at the Immaculata with the priceless stained glass already gone from the rose window.

- water is not being wasted.
1. Check every faucet in the home for leaks. Just a slow drip can waste 15 to 20 gallons a day.
 2. Check all toilet tanks. They can silently leak 100 gallons a day or more through faulty fixtures.
 3. Don't shower too long or fill the tub too full. Five minutes for showers and five inches for tubs is plenty.
 4. Use automatic dish and clothes washers with full loads only.
 5. Water lawns and gardens with good sense, not too much or too little at a time and mostly early in the morning before the sun gets too hot.

Which of the five is most important? The last one, experts say. A single lawn sprinkler spraying only five gallons a minute uses 50 percent more in just one hour than a combination of ten toilet flushes, two five-minute showers, two dishwasher loads and a full load of clothes.

YOUR LIFE INSURANCE

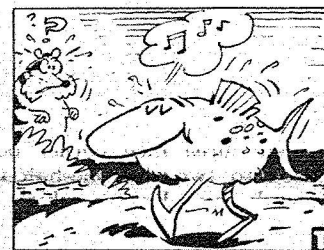
Prepared by the American Society of Chartered Life Underwriters, the national society of life insurance professionals who have earned the C.L.U. designation by meeting high educational, ethical and experience requirements.

Q. Just what is an annuity, and how does it compare to life insurance?

A. Good question. An annuity is a contract that guarantees you an income for a period of years or for life, say, after your retirement. It pays out money during the

annuitant's lifetime. It is the opposite of a life insurance policy, which is designed to provide a cash lump sum or an income for a policyholder's dependent if he dies. It pays out money upon the insured's death.

Interestingly, you can buy an annuity with a single sum, say at the age of 65, or through installments, over a number of years. You might also check at your job or with your union. Many employers and unions provide annuities on a group basis for their workers as a retirement benefit.



The walking catfish can live out of water for days and even "walks" on land from one lake to another, according to *The World Book Encyclopedia*. In addition to gills, the fish has lunglike breathing organs. It uses its front fins and tail to crawl along the ground.

WE'RE HERE!



RALPH L. HUFFMAN
1130 S.W. Winding Road
Topeka, Ks. 66604
Phone: 272-2413

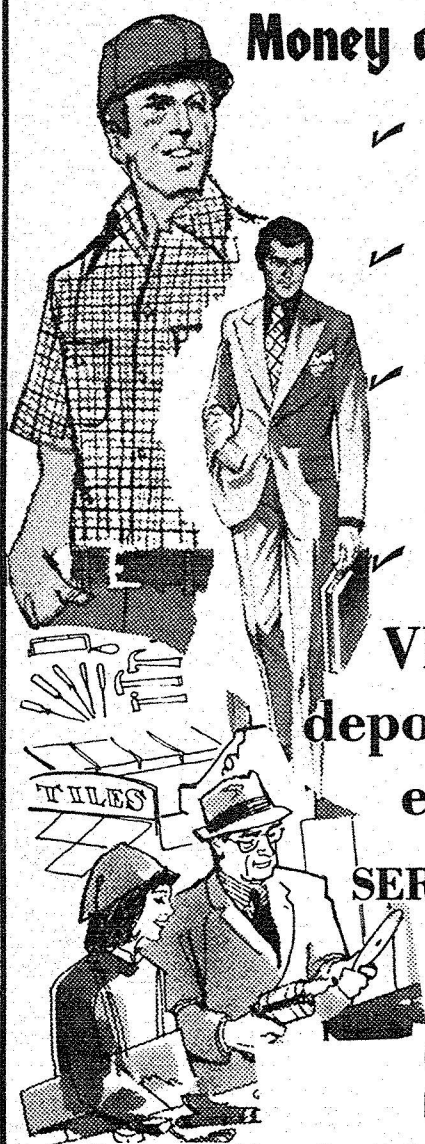
Where else would you expect to find an all-Kansas, Kansas-only company? Kansas is our country, and your neighborhood is an important part of my territory. Give me a call. Find out more about the all-Kansas line with the sunflower sign.

FARM BUREAU INSURANCE

FARM BUREAU MUTUAL • KANSAS FARM LIFE • KFB INSURANCE CO.

SAVE WITH US

Money deposited at our Bank is loaned locally



- ✓ To FARMERS for operating and improving their farm operation.
 - ✓ To BUSINESSMEN for operating and improving their businesses so that they may better serve you.
 - ✓ To INDIVIDUALS for homes, home improvements, automobiles, mobile homes and many other household needs.
- Many other community improvement projects.

VERY LITTLE of the money deposited outside of our community ever RETURNS for use here.

SERIOUSLY CONSIDER THIS

WHEN YOU HAVE MONEY TO SAVE.

SAVE WITH US!

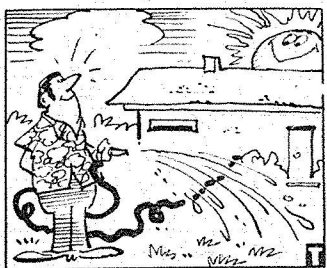
We will be closed Saturday, November 11, for Veterans' Day!

ST. MARYS STATE BANK

HOURS: Monday through Thursday -- 9:00 to 3:00; Friday -- 9:00 to 6:00; Saturday -- 9:00 - noon

WATER FACTS AND FANCIES

WATER CONSERVATION
People who want to be water wise around the home only have to remember five basic conservation tips, according to the American Water Works Association.



There are plenty of other things that can be done, the

Association points out, but these five will ensure that

St. Marys United Methodist Church

BAZAAR

2 P.M.

HAM & TURKEY SUPPER

5:00 - 7:00

Auction to Follow Meal

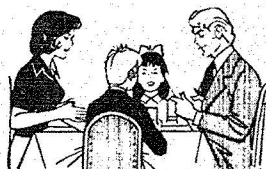
Saturday, November 18

Hammond Hall

ADULTS & HIGH SCHOOL - \$2.75

GRADE SCHOOL - \$1.50

PRE-SCHOOL - 50¢



St. Marys Bible Baptist Church

601 Durink

Sunday
Bible teaching 10 a.m.
Bible preaching 11 a.m.
Evening service 7 p.m.
Wednesday
Bible Study and Prayer 7 p.m.

If you want a Bible answer, come study with us. 10 a.m. Bible teaching classes for all ages. Adults taught by the pastor. Bring your Bible.

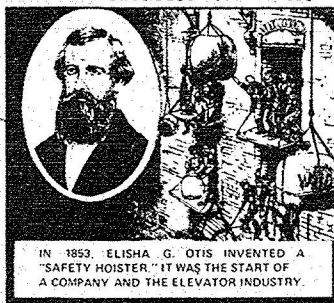


FIREMEN FROM SIX OTHER COMMUNITIES joined the St. Marys Volunteer company. Marvin Muckenthaler manned the hose from his precarious perch on the "Cherry Picker."



THE ROOF hopelessly out of reach, water is sprayed through an east window as firemen try to protect the contents of the sanctuary.

"GREAT AMERICANS" Elisha G. Otis



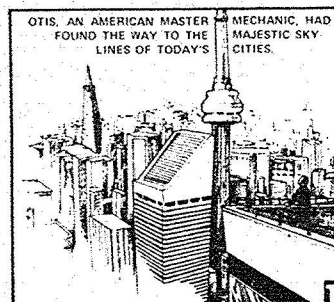
IN 1853, ELISHA G. OTIS INVENTED A "SAFETY HOISTER." IT WAS THE START OF A COMPANY AND THE ELEVATOR INDUSTRY.



IN 1854, AT THE CRYSTAL PALACE EXPOSITION IN NEW YORK CITY, OTIS DEMONSTRATED HIS DEVICE. HOISTED HIGH ABOVE THE CROWD, HE ORDERED THE ROPE CUT. HIS ELEVATOR DID NOT FALL.

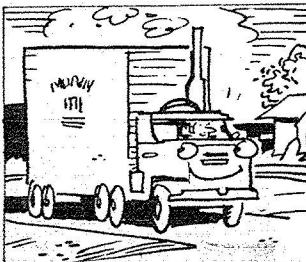


THE FIRST PASSENGER ELEVATOR WAS INSTALLED BY OTIS IN THE F. V. MAHON & CO. BUILDING IN NEW YORK CITY IN 1857. THE BUILDING WAS FIVE STORIES HIGH.

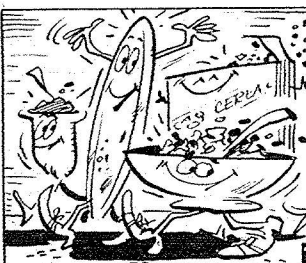


OTIS, AN AMERICAN MASTER MECHANIC, HAD FOUND THE WAY TO THE LINES OF TODAY'S MAJESTIC SKY CITIES.

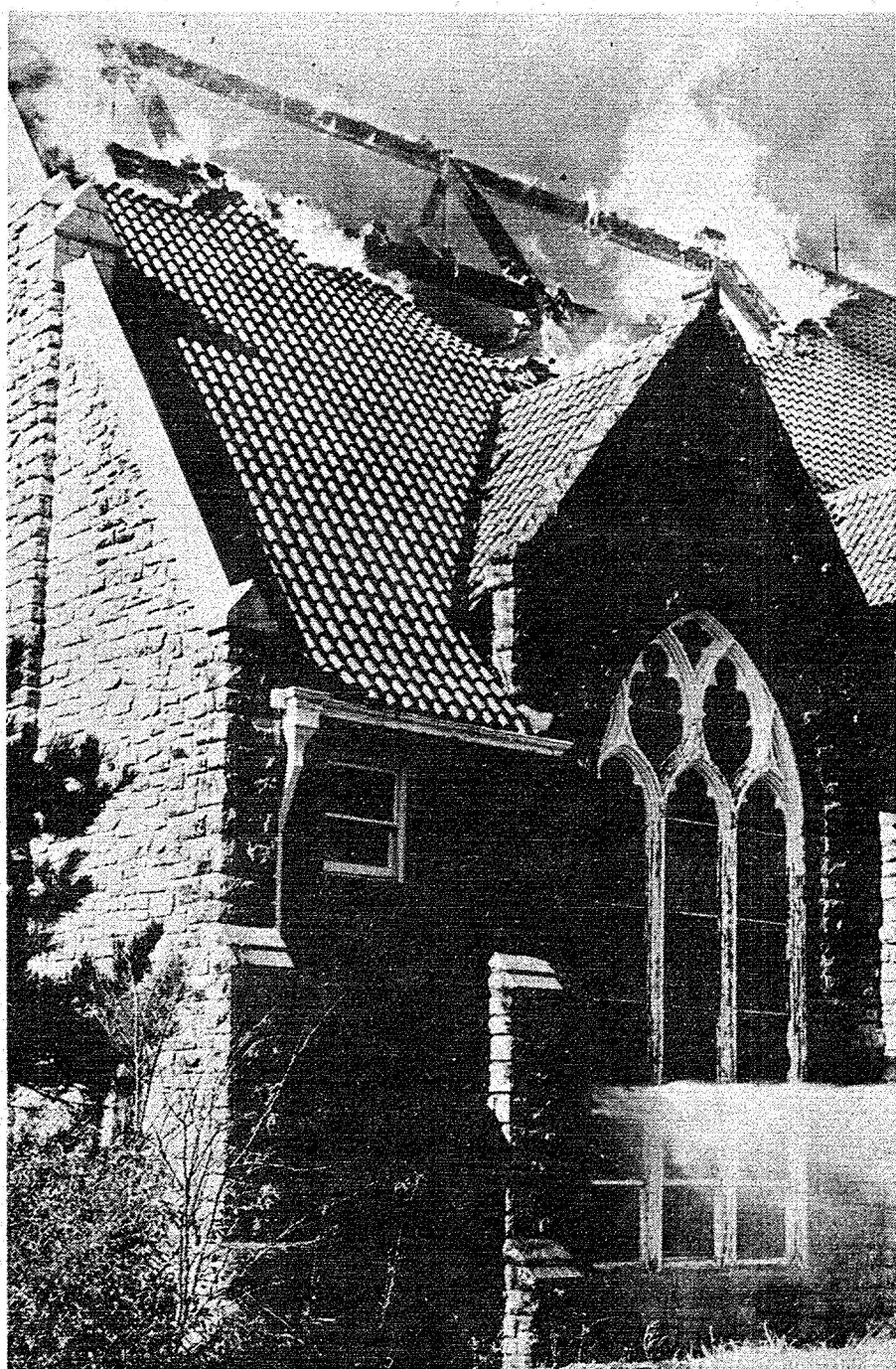
cooling fans of big truck engines. About how often are fans needed to cool truck engines? (a) 5 percent of the time (b) 50 percent of the time (c) 95 percent of the time?



ANSWERS: 1. (a) Just one gallon fewer a week per car and we could have over five billion gallons more fuel for other purposes. 2. (c) The 1.7 billion gallons saved by new truck buyers could heat the homes of 857,500 average Americans. 3. (b) According to the Motor Vehicle Manufacturers Association, the trucking industry is serving the public in two ways: By conserving fuel and helping fight inflation. 4. (a) The fan is needed for cooling 100 percent of the time. The new device saves as much as 25 horsepower per truck.



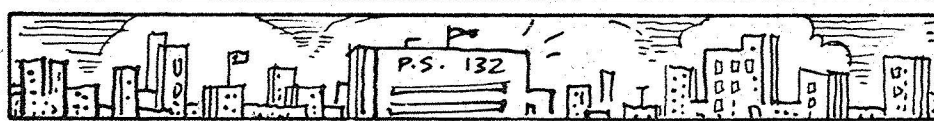
People in the U.S. consume eleven billion bananas annually, according to *The World Book Encyclopedia*. Most of them are eaten as snacks or in cereal, fruit cocktails, and salads.



TILE GONE and beams exposed, the flames continue to consume the roof.



A LOOK at the burning chapel, as people wait in horrified anticipation for the steeple to collapse.



"Teachers open the door. You enter by yourself." Chinese Proverb

"What nobody seeks is rarely found."
Pestalozzi

AUCTION

Wed., Nov. 15
1:30 p.m.

Five miles north of
Alta Vista, Ks.
on Scenic Road Drive.

Offering 473 acres in two tracts.
Personal property: 1950 Allis WD tractor and loader. Some machinery, posts, anvil, misc. shop equipment.

Mr. & Mrs. T. O. Alley

For complete sale bill, contact Anderson Realty, 103 S. 4th, Manhattan.

Broker/Auctioneer
Milt Anderson 776-4834

Salesman/Auctioneer
Vern Gannon 584-6361

QUICK QUIZ

Are you really hot when it comes to questions about fuel savings? This quiz can help you tell.

1. The U. S. could save about 5.2 billion gallons of fuel a year if every automobile consumed how many fewer gallons a week? (a) 1

(b) 10 (c) 15?
2. Since 1973, America's truck and bus industries have through voluntary efforts, saved 1.7 billion gallons of fuel on new trucks alone. That's enough to heat how many homes for five years? (a) over 100,000 (b) about 500,000 (c) nearly 900,000?

3. Saving money on fuel and so saving money on transporting goods by truck is likely to cause inflation to (a) increase (b) decrease (c) stay the same?

4. More than 389 million gallons of fuel have been saved by installing variable drives that disconnect the

AUCTION

Sat., Nov. 11 11 a.m.

Armory Building,
18th and Jackson
Junction City, Ks.

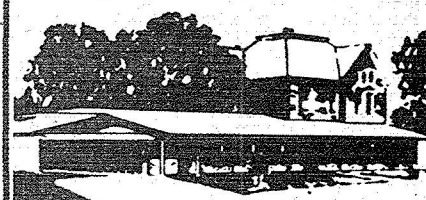
China, Glassware, Hummel figurines, Antique furniture, Good quality items.

AUCTIONEERS
Milt Anderson 776-4834
Vern Gannon 584-6361

VERSCHULDEN FUNERAL HOME

Since 1894

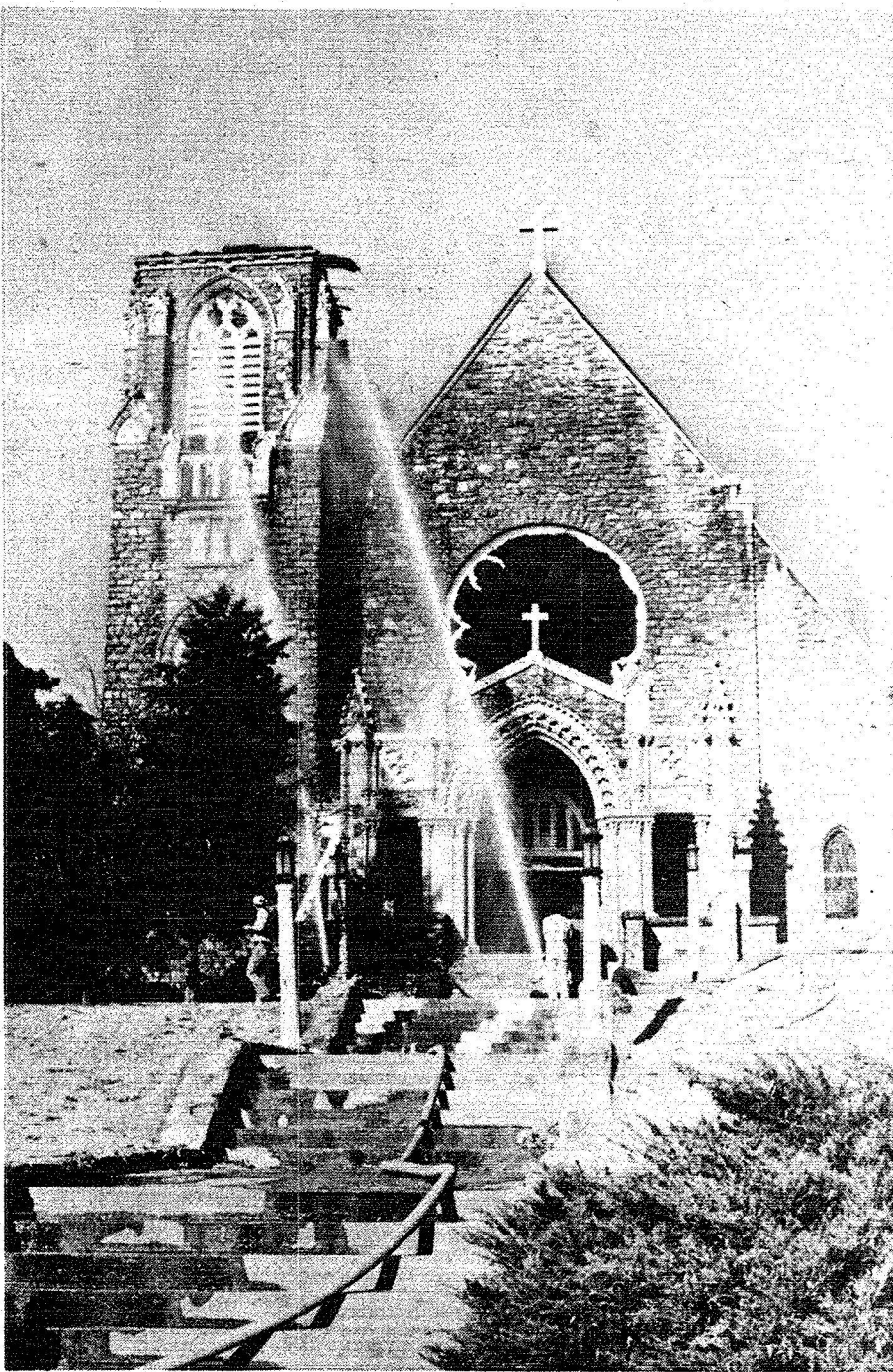
84 years of service.



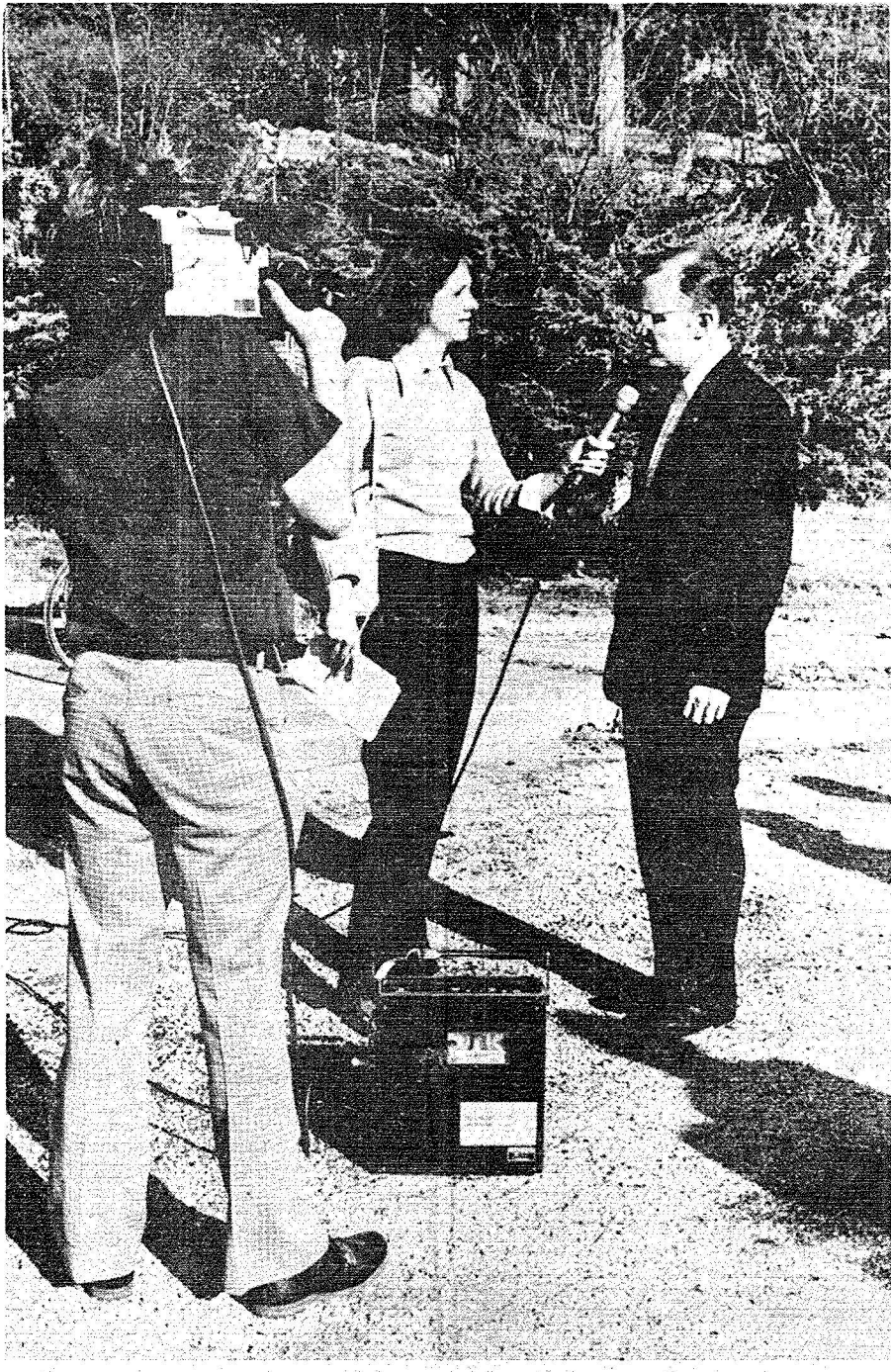
714 MAPLE ST. MARYS



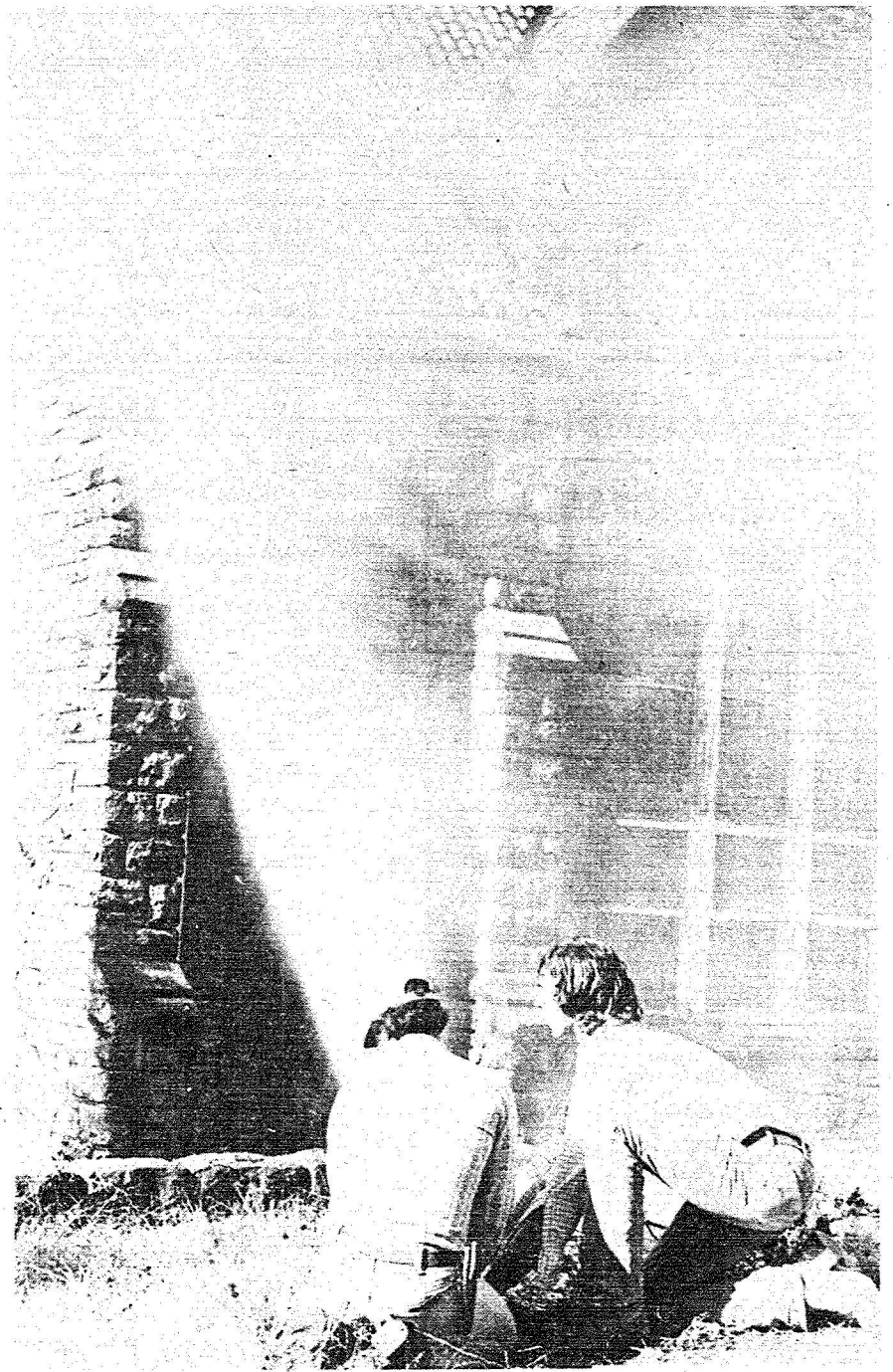
HOLD ON, MEN! Father Bolduc expressed his deep appreciation to all the fire-fighting crews, the police, and the people of St. Marys for their assistance.



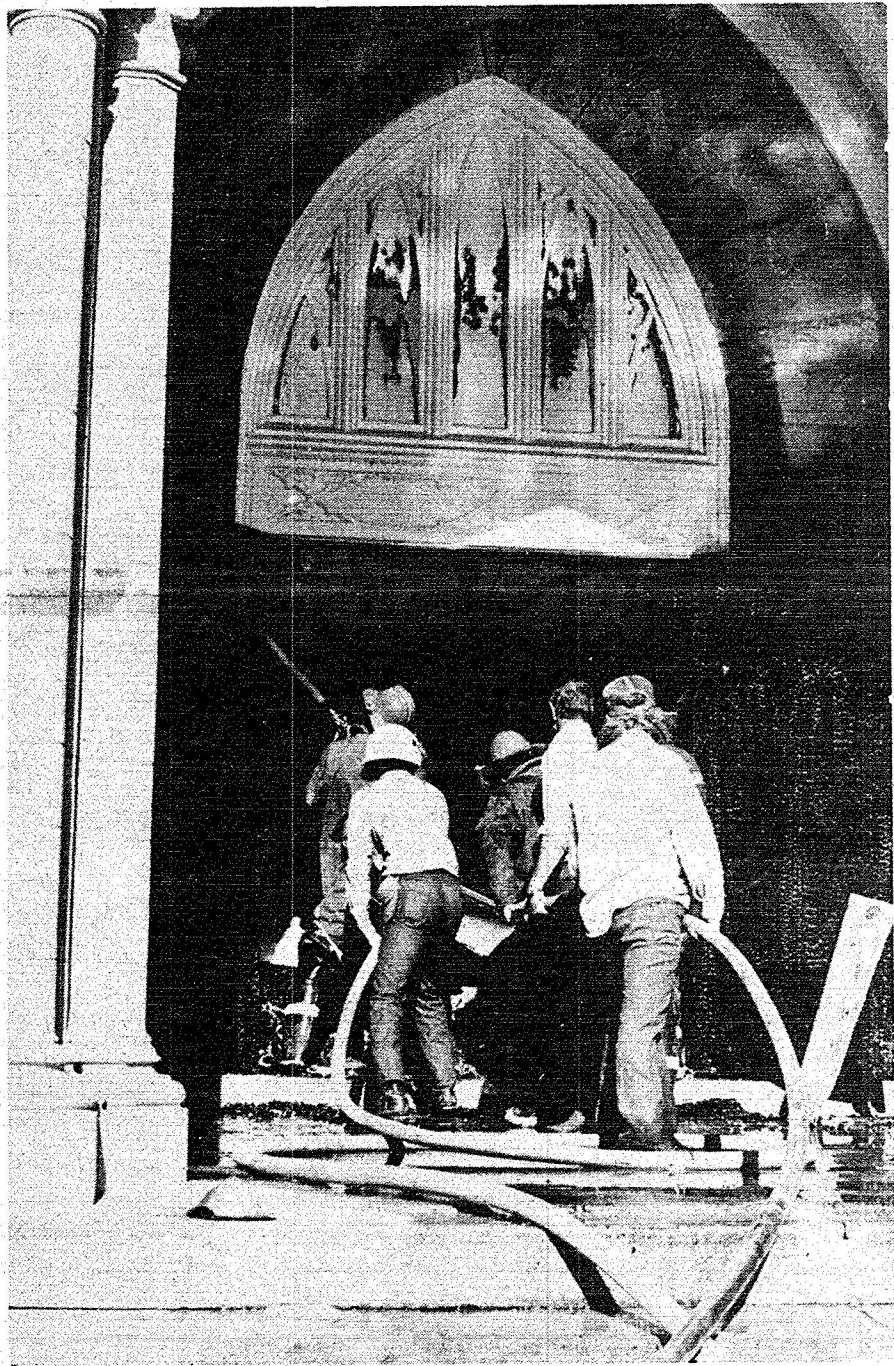
GONE! The cross and the steeple, so long a symbol of St. Marys, tumbled down.



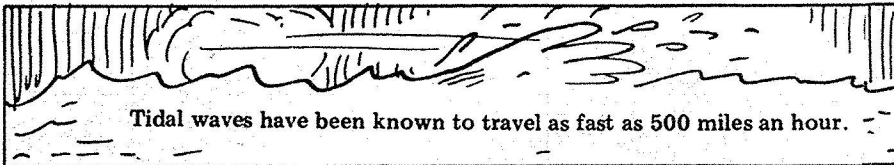
BROTHER AUGUSTINE, spokesman for the Society of the Friends of St. Pius X, is interviewed by Anne Rubenstein, as a television cameraman records for W.I.B.W. news.



CHUCK RONNAU and Pat Roth adjust the hose pressure nozzle as they work on the east side of the chapel.



FIREMEN DRAG heavy hoses through the charred chapel doors.



Tidal waves have been known to travel as fast as 500 miles an hour.



KENNY ZELLER, St. Marys Fire Department, is assisted by two college employees who were repairing the steeple roof when fire was first discovered.

INSURING HEROES OF AMERICA

Junior Fire Marshals

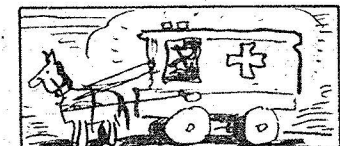
Fire fighting may be grown-ups' responsibility, but many school children are gladly doing their part to make the fire fighter's burden easier by becoming Junior Fire Marshals.



The Junior Fire Marshal is a program of fire prevention and fire safety education for children in kindergarten through third grade. Junior Fire Marshals are taught a healthy fear of fire, what they can do to prevent it from happening and what to do in case a fire breaks out.

The program is conducted by elementary school teachers across the U.S. using materials supplied by The Hartford Insurance Group, sponsors of this program since its inception back in 1947.

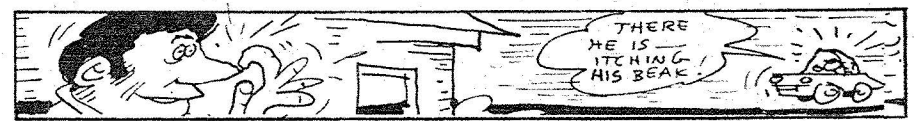
One of the most valuable jobs performed by Junior Fire Marshals is inspecting their homes for fire hazards with the help of their parents and the program's "Home Fire Safety Check List."



Baron Dominique Jean Larrey, Napoleon's personal surgeon, designed the first ambulance in 1792, and used it in Napoleon's Italian campaign, 1796-7.



In 1870 the U.S. population was 38,558,371. Today it is over 215 million!



People once believed that if your nose itched, company was coming.

Take advantage now of KPL's Free Attic Insulation Inspection Program.

Save money! Reduce energy waste!

Find out for sure if you have adequate attic insulation. And if you don't, what it will cost to correct the situation.

Just call your KPL office now for an appointment. We'll inspect your attic free and with no obligation.

If you need more insulation—and want us to—we can arrange for quality installation of R-30 level insulation at a competitive price.

You can also take advantage of our low cost financing of your new insulation and spread the payments over 24 months on your KPL bill.

Of course, there's no obligation on your part to act on any of our recommendations.

Proper attic insulation will do more to help a homeowner use energy wisely than anything else. It's also the easiest and least expensive part of a home to insulate for winter. And don't forget it can make a big difference in next summer's air conditioning costs, too.

Well-insulated attics help us, too. Adequately insulated homes help reduce peak load requirements and costly energy waste. And all of us are for that.

Call your KPL office today—or send this coupon—and take advantage of this proven program. Over 11,000 homeowners already have.

**You need us.
We need you.**

Call the KPL Manhattan office at 776-8893.
Or mail to: Kansas Power & Light
P.O. Box 889, Topeka, Kansas 66601

☐ Yes, I'd like to stop energy waste. Please have a KPL representative contact me.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

**The Kansas Power
and Light
Company**

