

# Officials Probe Fire In Colonie

By MARTIN MOYNIHAN

Fire officials today are seeking the cause of a general alarm blaze that apparently started in a paint shop of the Karl A. Paulsen Lumber Co., spread quickly behind 40 mile per hour winds and leveled a large shop and storage on Railroad Avenue in Colonie.

Fast action by volunteer firefighters from throughout the Town of Colonie yesterday prevented the raging fire from spreading to a nearby lumber storage warehouse.

**TEAMS** of firemen stationed themselves in a 20-foot-wide alleyway filled with dense smoke between the burning building and the warehouse area. They poured streams of water on the blaze as wind blew smoke and flames toward them.

The general alarm blaze took a toll of inventory and buildings valued at more than \$500,000.

No major injuries were reported, but at least a dozen firemen were treated at the scene for smoke inhalation.

Billows of thick black smoke from the blaze, which broke out shortly after 1 p.m. and was reported under control at 2:45 p.m. could be seen for several miles. Firefighters continued to pour water on the smoldering ruins throughout the night.

Destroyed by the fire was a large first floor shop where wood products were made, a second floor lumber storage area and several attached sheds. The fire is believed to have started in a paint and wood staining shop adjacent to the barn-sized shop.

In addition to lumber and the buildings, the loss also included a quantity of paints and electrical woodworking equipment.

**IN ADDITION** to the high winds which fanned the flames into a raging inferno, firemen were hampered by inadequate water pressure resulting from the large number of hoses tapping the Railroad Avenue water mains. The firemen set up a relay brigade of trucks to bring additional water in from Fuller Road, about a quarter of a mile to the west.

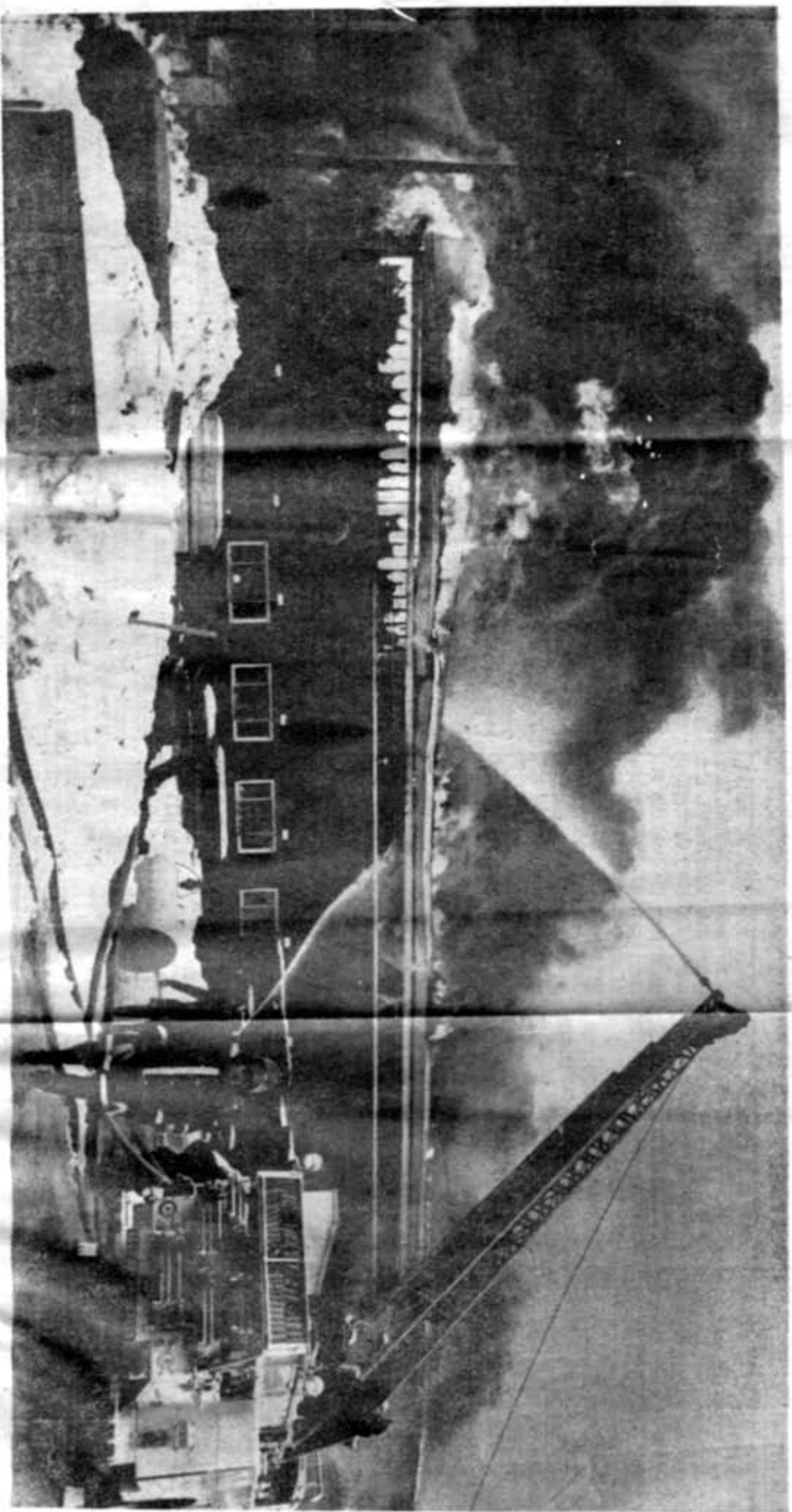
One employe of the lumber company said about 15 men were working inside the building when the fire broke out. All escaped safely.

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Photo by Martin E. Miller



WOOD SHOP GOES UP IN SMOKE—Colonie firemen turn snorkels and hoses on general alarm fire that destroyed a shop building at the Karl A. Paulsen Lumber Co. on Railroad Avenue. The building was a total loss, with damage estimated at more than \$500,000.

Staff Photo by Bob Ricker



Staff Photo by Bob Richey

**FLAMES . . . THEN ICE**—Icicles and ice-coated debris are reminders of the gallons of water poured on flames that swept portions of the Karl A. Paulsen Lumber Co. Tuesday afternoon. Volunteer firemen from throughout the Town of Colonie fought the fire that is believed to have started in a paint shop and then spread to a large shop and storage area. Damage was estimated at more than \$500,000.