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# Farmington News

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## Fire destroys Twin Mills



An explosion followed by fire destroyed the four-story brick "Twin Mills" on Central St., Farmington, Tuesday afternoon. The blaze has temporarily put between 60 and 65 employees of the Davis Manufacturing Co. out of work, but Mrs. Robert Davis, who is the managing owner, said that plans are in the works to reopen.

"We will pick up the pieces and start again," she said. Contacted yesterday morning, Mrs. Davis said that plant officials would spend the day with insurance people, and in hunting for available space. Once suitable quarters are found, and retooling can be accomplished, work will resume.

She hopes quarters can be found in Farmington, so that work can begin within a week or two. Mrs. Davis has been operating the wood heel shop

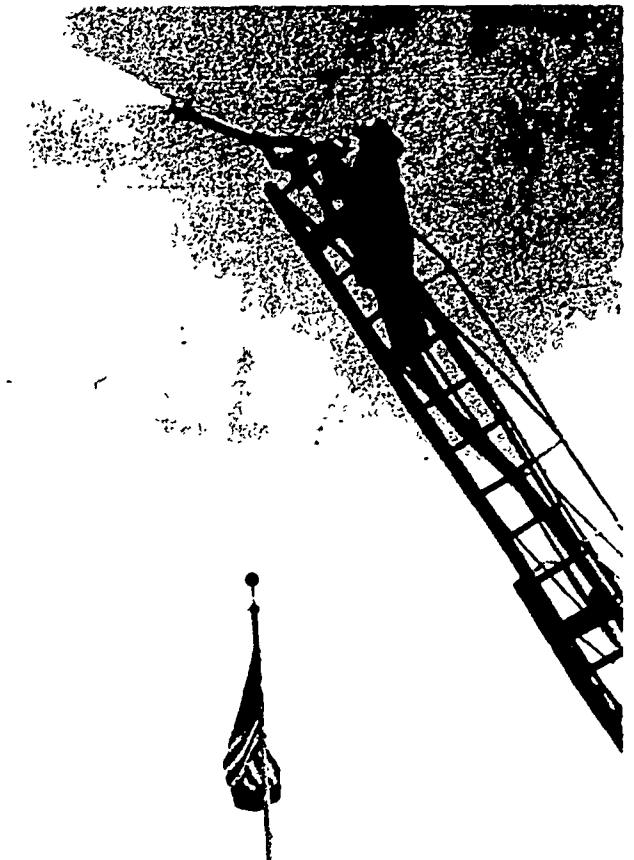
about a year ago. No serious injury was reported during the 5 hour blaze by over a hundred mutual aid firemen from 7 communities but Rochester Fire Chief Raymond Duhurst was rushed to the Frisbie Memorial Hospital and treated for smoke inhalation and fatigue before being released that evening.

The building which has been part of the central Farmington scene since its construction in 1882 was presently being used as a wood heel shop. Reports have it that a short circuit occurred at 11:30 a.m. on a spraying machine for a highly inflammable laquer being operated by Miss Joan Cardinal and that workmen believed that the small fire which began had been extinguished only to find soon that it had broken out in both

sections of the upper story of the building. The fire was brought under control at about 4:00 p.m. under the direction of Fire Chief Robert Ricker but burning continued between the brick partitions well into the night. The All Out was sounded at 2:00 a.m. Wednesday. No estimate of the loss was known at press time but it was felt that the building was damaged beyond repair with the two upper floors nearly completely gutted and water damage so severe below that it appeared unlikely that repairs would be practical.

The building, which until late years housed a shoe manufacturing plant, held employment for several hundred persons during its peak. It was vacant until the Davises purchased it 3 years ago since 1957 when the H.O. Rondeau Co., closed its doors.

Mutual aid fire department teams from Farmington, Middleton, Milton, Rochester, Somersworth, Dover, New Durham and Portsmouth merged on the scene and a dozen streams of water played on the fire from hydrants and the Cocheo River.



Eighty five feet up - on Central Square this fire fighting apparatus directed a jet of water into the heart of the Twin Mills blaze Tuesday afternoon. A defective hydraulic line forced it to leave late in the day to be replaced by a unit from Portsmouth. (Won's News photo)

## Farmington News has new owners

Monadnock Ledger, Inc., which owns and publishes the NLWS has agreed to sell this and three other papers of the WON papers group, together with the central printing plant at Jaffrey, to Patrick H. Turley and Thomas A. Turley, both of Palmer, Mass.

The announcement is made jointly today by Richard Noyes, president of Monadnock Ledger, Inc., and the new owners, who are brothers.

The sale includes the twice-weekly LEDGER, the Hillsboro MESSENGER, the Farmington NEWS and the Pittsfield NEWS. It does not include the Salem OBSERVER, newest member of the group.

Noyes will continue as editor and publisher of the newspaper at Salem.

The new owners will continue to publish the several papers which have changed hands, and

to operate the central printing plant in the production of these newspapers and other publications now being printed here.

As sole owners and operating officers of similar, though larger. (Continued on page 8)

### Postal Service

Window service at the Farmington Post Office will be extended Saturday, Dec 18 for the convenience of postal customers.

Windows will open at 8:00 a.m. and close at 4:30 p.m.

According to Robert E. Lefavour Postmaster

## Hayride has full house for Danny McDonald

The Granite State Hayride performed to a nearly full house Sunday evening at the Farmington Town Hall during a 4 hour benefit show to aid the family of Danny McDonald, who was 12 years old that night and recuperating from a recent \$50,000 kidney transplant. Over \$1,000 was added to his fund.

Each of a dozen country singing acts donated their services and the entire proceeds were turned over to Danny's cause.

Gubernatorial hopeful Meldrim Thomson of Orford was a surprise guest at Danny's party. When invited by producer Don West to address the crowds of over 500 the Orford candidate explained his deep pride in a people who would put themselves out so unselfishly to help another. "It's really a great, wonderful, thing you people have done for Danny" Thomson said, things like this reaffirm a man's faith in people.

raffled off by an Exeter firm was awarded during the evening \$2,000. Increasing the fund by about



About 2,000 years ago the man, our Savior gave his life that we might learn to love and to give.

Tonight we can share our spirit of Christmas by giving for Danny more than we have yet done.

By our giving we can say to all the world that America is not sick - America is alive, healthy, and determined to give so that all of the Dannies in America can have a better life.

Let us by our good deeds, in this great effort show that we want America to be a better land for all children than we found when we came here.

Thanking the crowd for their generosity, Thomson left the stage amidst thunderous applause and pocketbooks were opened in addition to the admission charge pegged for Danny.

Danny's mother was held speechless by the event simply saying, "What can we say but THANKS" This means so very much.

And Danny will be sat in the front row beaming with pleasure over the evening's billing.

A snowblower which was

Meldrim Thomson Jr., announced candidate for governor left the stage to thunderous applause during a fund raising Granite State Hayride at the Farmington Town Hall Sunday evening.

Thomson expressed his great pride in Hayride producers Don West and Rose Lee and to the performers and the Farmington Police Association who sponsored the benefit show to help defray the costs of a 450,000 kidney transplant operation for 12 year old Danny McDonald of Raymond who was in the audience.

"Let us by our good deeds in this great effort show that we want America to be a better land for all children," Thomson said as his plugged for contributions forward the cause.

Recording artist Don West Hayride producer introduced the gubernatorial candidate during the Hayride and told the audience that he was supporting Thomson's bid "all out" by offering his services. Master of Ceremonies Don McFarland of WDNH FM radio also on stage.

## Night of miracles

Sunday evening Dec 13 at 7:00 the Senior Choir of the Park St Baptist Church will present the Cantata, Night of Miracles, by John W. Peterson under the direction of Bjorn Westgard. Mrs. Ruth Peterson organist and Mrs. George Holloway pianist.

Sopranos Mrs. Ann Tilton, Mrs. James MacFarlane, Miss Barbara Gilman, Mrs. Virginia Bishop and Mrs. Arlington Wray.

Altos Mrs. J. Howard Pease, Mrs. Ruth Plante and Mrs. Frederick B. Carlson.

Tenors Mr. Ormond

Glidden, Mr. George E. Westgard, Mrs. Estelle Westgard, Mrs. Charles M. Wray, Mrs. Ruth Peterson, Mrs. George Holloway.

The Public is cordially invited to this Christmas Sunday evening Cantata. Don't forget to be there at 7 p.m.



Firemen found extreme difficulty in directing their hoses onto the fire at the Twin Mills Tuesday afternoon which was contained basically in the 3rd and 4th floors of the brick structure.



Farmington Fire Chief Robert Ricker was on the scene to direct the operations of the fire fighting Tuesday afternoon when flames followed an explosion at Twin Mills destroying the 4 story brick factory.

### LOCAL LINES

Mr. Clifford is much better and may be outside in a few days. Mrs. Blanche Burno and Mr. and Mrs. Charles Burno of Kingston, N.H., Mr. Bruno's two nieces Mrs. Doris Peterson and Mrs. Mamie Currier of East Rochester were recent visitors. Mr. Burno received many cards from members of the Fish and Game Club of the Wild Life World.

The Executive board of the Fish and Game Club of Farmington will announce the date soon of the annual banquet in April.

### Whist parties take over!

"If you happen to be walking down Hanson Street in Rochester by the Old American Legion Home some Wednesday night, you'll no doubt hear gay chatter and laughter coming from within," says Mabel Amsden.

Every week at 7:30 sharp many people gather to play Kitty Bid. There's free coffee all evening and lunch and sometimes even homemade doughnuts.

There's a lucky seat drawing for a free ticket the following week. Also there are prizes and a pool for the highest scorer.

Mabel Amsden, Chairman asks, "What more could one ask for than three hours of relaxing fun and a small donation to help the Bottleers Bottle Club." She extends an invitation to "come on down and join all of us from Sanford, Somersworth, Dover, Rochester, Gonic, Barrington and Farmington."

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"I'D LIKE A" - Santa is going to be a busy man when he comes to town on Christmas eve.

He has gathered a lot of lists of things which have been wished while in town during recent trips.

This young lady is one of over a thousand youngsters of the Davidson Rubber Co., family who placed orders to be filled from Santa's North Pole workshop for delivery on Christmas eve.

The Davidson party was held at the Farmington High School auditorium Sunday afternoon between 2 and 4 p.m., with over 2,000 employees and their families in attendance.

R. Huckins photo

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