

THE POST-STANDARD

GYM LOSS PLACED AT \$2,000,000

Archbold Building at University Razed in Early Morning Fire

BY COLLIN WESCHKE

Archbold gymnasium, home of Syracuse university athletics for almost four decades, was only a memory today after a raging early morning fire, which spread with amazing speed, left only walls standing yesterday.

The biggest fire in the history of the school caused loss estimated by Chancellor William P. Tolley at \$2,000,000 and resulted in injury to one fireman.

Fireman John Russell of Engine 2 was struck in the abdomen and knocked temporarily

unconscious by a burst hose line. He was treated at Crouse-Irving hospital and sent home.

The fire, which had completely enveloped the rear of the structure, was discovered by a night watchman, Claude Guill, only two and one-half hours after he had made his nightly check thru the building. Guill told firemen he had gone thru the gymnasium about 3.30 a. m. First alarm was turned in at 6.03.

District Chief Leo Pacheck turned in a 3-3 general alarm when he arrived on the scene, and Deputy Chief William J. Connelly turned in a special alarm when he arrived and found that

extra manpower was needed to save the nearby Carnegie library building.

Firemen found an arch of flame extending from the gymnasium across to the library and quickly threw up a wall of water between the two structures.

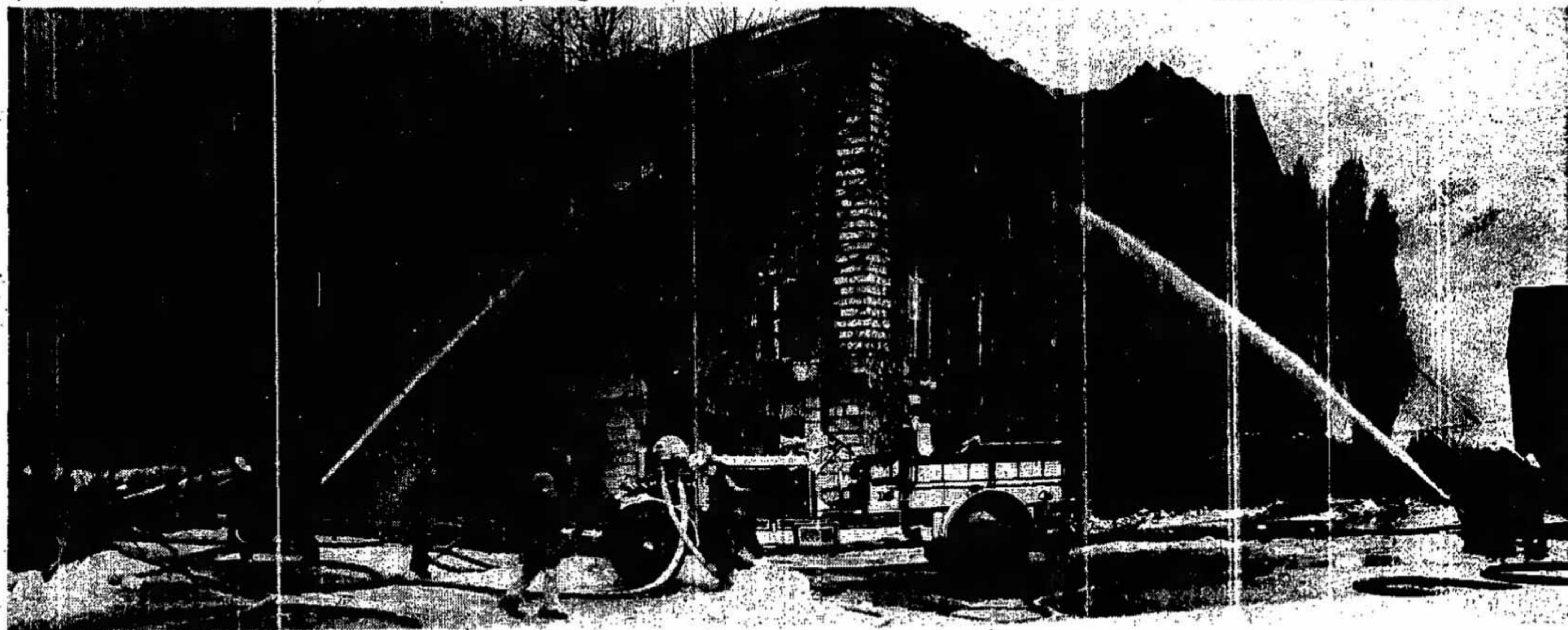
Men were stationed on the library roof and in the building to check for falling embers and windows cracked and broken by the intense heat.

Sims hall co-eds served hot coffee to firemen, who battled flames in near zero temperatures. Twenty-one companies, nearly 150 men, fought the blaze.

The structure was considered a total loss when apparatus arrived and firemen concentrated efforts on the front of the building to save valuable trophies and records extending back to the days when the university was founded.

A favorable wind from the northwest saved other hill buildings from a similar fate, whipping burning embers into vacant fields and streets as far away as College pl. At its height the blaze could be seen from vantage points thruout Syracuse.

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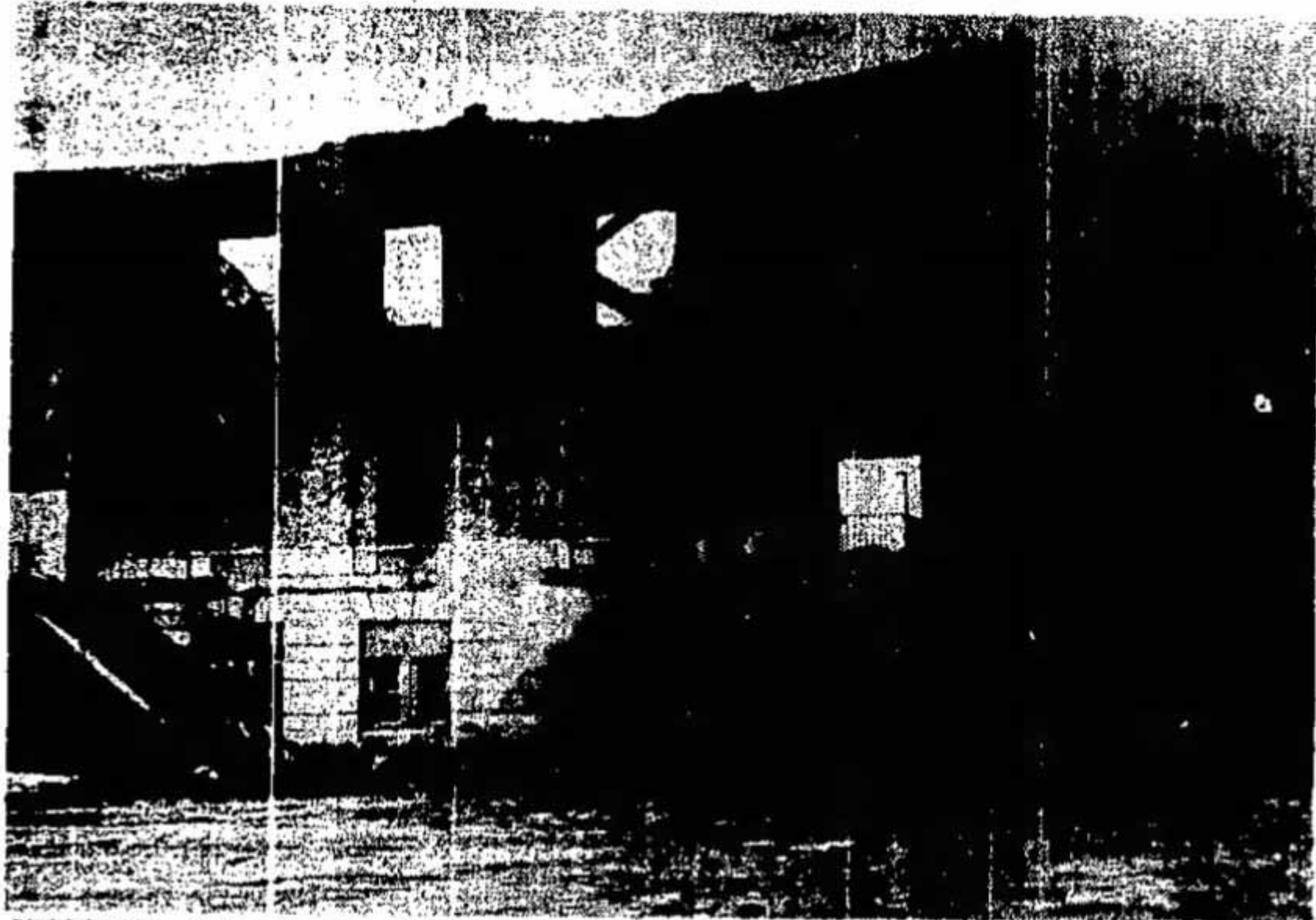


GYMNASIUM IN FLAMES.—Rear portion of Archbold gymnasium is still in flames in this general view, as firemen pour tons of water on the structure, totally destroyed by an early morning fire. Hoses were directed mainly on the front of the building in an effort to save valuable trophies.

Photo by Herman J. Borner

Scene of Desolation Replaces Busy Campus Athletic Center

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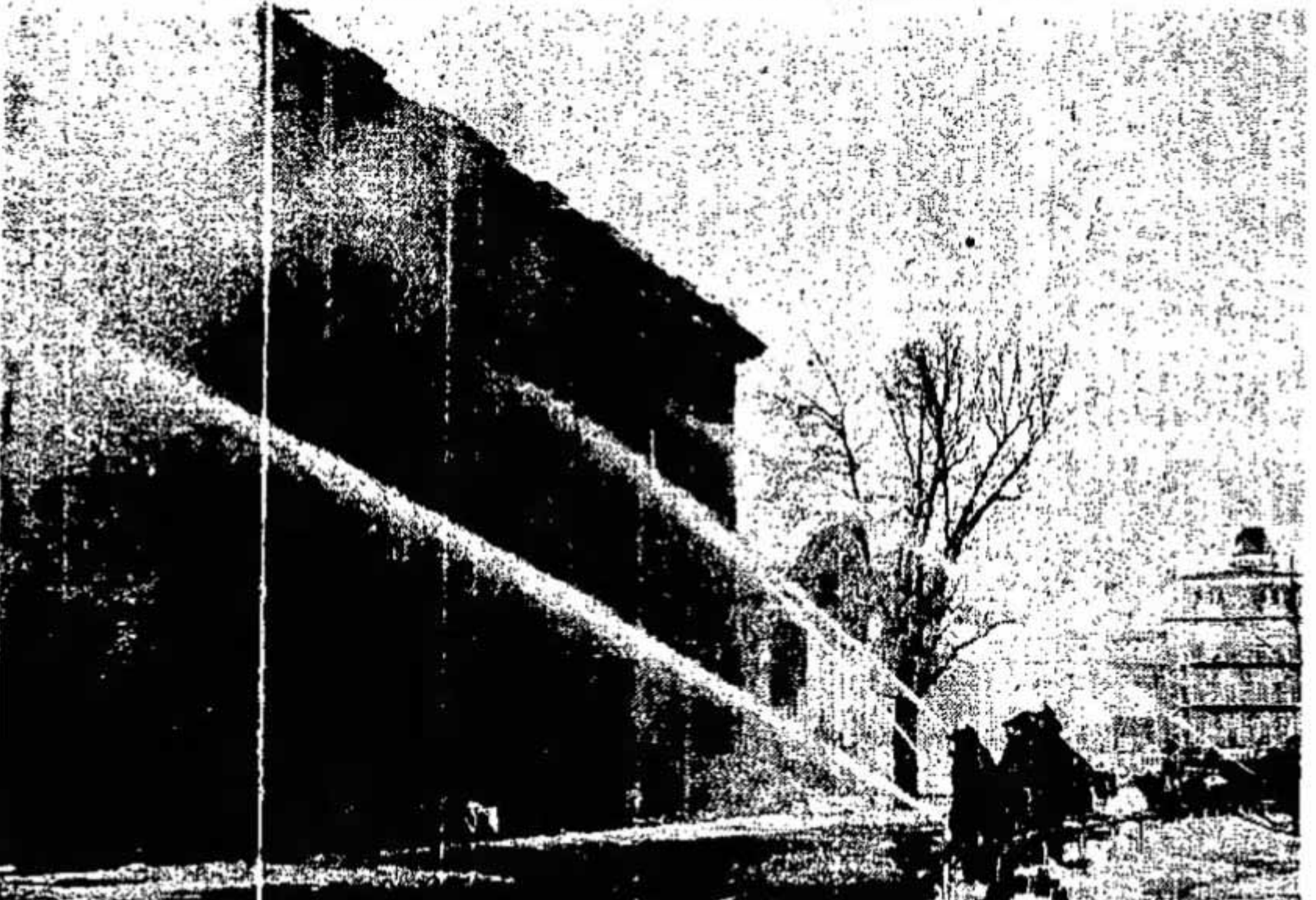
SKELETON—Only charred walls remain of gutted Archbold gymnasium. View is of the back of the building, which was enveloped in flames when fire apparatus arrived.



SOUTHWEST SIDE—Part of the gymnasium facing the stadium is shown in this picture. Locker rooms are on second floor, with visiting team rooms in the basement corner.



JEEP SAVED—Firemen pull an army jeep from burning Archbold gymnasium. Fire concentrated in this portion of the building.



WATER AND SMOKE—Four lines of water are played on the east side of the gymnasium building just after the fire had passed its peak.



BLAZE AT HEIGHT—Flames pour from windows of gymnasium as the blaze reached its peak early yesterday. Flames in this picture are concentrated in the bowling alleys.



COFFEE FOR FIREMEN—Firemen battling the Archbold gymnasium blaze are served hot coffee by Sims hall co-eds, Ann Bosak and Jan Paxton.

\$2,000,000 Fire Razes Archbold Gymnasium

(Concluded from Page 1)

The fire was brought under control about 7 a. m., but firemen were playing thousands of gallons of water on smoldering ruins all last night. At one time 15 pumpers were applying water and a maze of hose lines extended for blocks as firemen used every available hydrant. Employees of the New York Telephone Co. immediately set about repairing lines which ran beneath the gymnasium. Other cables from the university's radio workshop also were under the structure and were destroyed. Fire Chief Frank M. Savage redistributed fire equipment to give full protection to the remainder of the city.

STARTED IN ALLEYS

The fire is believed to have started in the bowling alleys on the ground level of the building and spread quickly upward. It was spread further by the falling roof. At 11 a. m.—more than five hours after the blaze was discovered—firemen were still unable to enter the front portion.

The alleys were in use Saturday night. The gymnasium also was the scene Saturday night of the Cornell-Cornell wrestling matches. A tour of what remained of the first and second floors late yesterday afternoon disclosed only slight damage to trophies. Athletic Director Lewis P. Andreas said that the offices were intact and records were damaged only by water. He said that the basket locker room where athletic clothing and equipment of students is kept, was intact. Receipts of the Syracuse-Cornell wrestling matches held Saturday night in the building, were kept in an office safe. Loss in athletic equipment is expected to be nearly \$75,000, however.

Tons of water were poured into the building and a tunnel extending from the basement to the stadium became a river. Steps within the tunnel resembled a rushing waterfall.

A Post-Standard reporter was the first, outside of firemen, to enter the building thru this tunnel. The interior of the structure presented a scene of complete destruction, with portions of the second floor that had fallen thru still blazing.

The tunnel enters the building near the firing range and 22 caliber shells stored there exploded intermittently with pops that broke thru the crackling of the embers.

The interior presented a weird scene, with lockers and metal cabinets swollen and burst by the intense heat. Huge girders which formed the superstructure of the ceiling lay warped, bent and twisted in the wreckage.

ROTC offices on the track floor of the building were a total loss and officers last night had already sent to First army headquarters for duplicate records. There were no duplicate records of student grades kept, however, and these were believed to be lost.

TO HOLD ROTC CLASSES

Officials said that ROTC classes would be held today as scheduled in a prefabricated building. An estimate of 300 rifles kept in ROTC in a prefabricated building. An estimate of 300 rifles kept in ROTC in a prefabricated building. An estimate of 300 rifles kept in ROTC in a prefabricated building.

Through the day, stunned students came and went, with the first large crowds arriving shortly before daybreak. Morning religious services were held at nearby Hendricks chapel and hundreds of students took a quick glance at the gymnasium before entering the chapel.

Sightseers crowded the university section last night and a steady stream of cars crawled up University pl. and College pl. All sightseers saw, however, was an ice-coated shell, surrounded by solidly frozen trees.

The three-story brick building, dedicated in 1907 as a memorial to the late John Archbold, university benefactor and one time associate of John D. Rockefeller, was erected at a cost of \$400,000. Chancellor William P. Tolley estimated it would cost \$2,000,000 to replace the building and equipment.

HELD FIRE RESISTANT

The gymnasium was considered to be fire resistant. It is almost totally covered by a blanket insurance policy which covers all Syracuse university buildings.

Business Manager Hugh C. Gregg said that insurance only recently had been adjusted to include increased building costs and that contents of the structure were also well protected. Several cases of reconditioned football equipment, stored in the building only a few days ago, were believed lost.

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Main concern of university officials today is the time element involved in replacing the structure. Already the school's housing project has come to a near standstill because of labor and material shortages. Chancellor William P. Tolley said that he thought it would be at least a couple of years before another gymnasium could be erected.

PROGRAM IN DOUBT

Athletic Director Andreas could not say yesterday what the effect would be on the school's athletic program, although regular physical education classes were considered out of the picture.

The blaze will necessitate revising registration at the school for some 10,000 students. Registration was scheduled to be held in the gymnasium beginning Feb. 3.

Fire Marshal John F. Sloan said yesterday that an immediate investigation would be launched into the cause of the blaze. Patrolman Cornelius Cook of the police department, attached to the fire marshal's office, will be placed in charge of the investigation, Sloan said.

The gymnasium was the object of a report by City

Engineer Nelson Pitts, who reported an inadequate number of exits. The university was forced to limit attendance at functions held in the building. As a result, the university basketball team has been playing its home games in the W. Jefferson st. armory.



TWISTED STEEL—Steel superstructure of the gymnasium roof can be seen in this picture, taken from a scoreboard platform. Intense heat of the fire is evidenced by the condition of the girders.

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