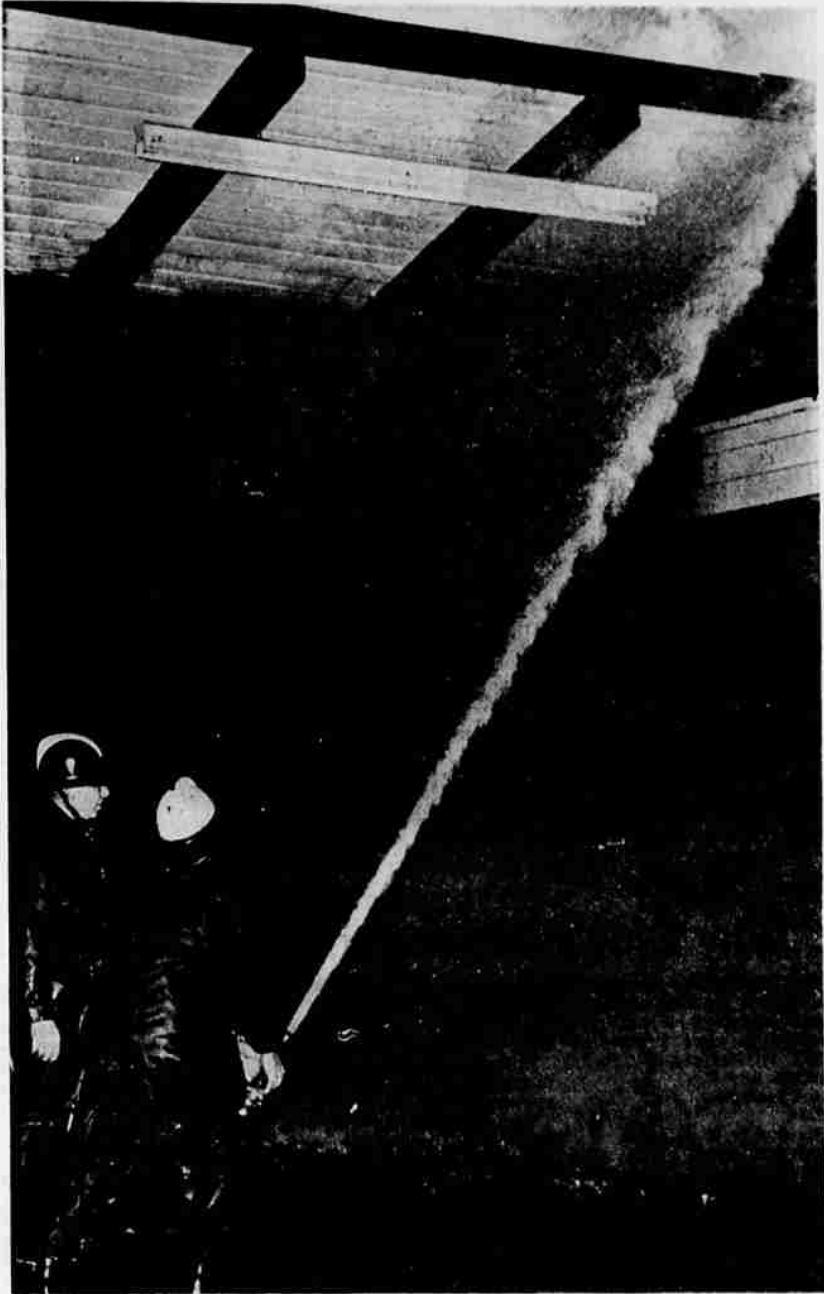


75 Firemen Battle Eugene's Biggest Fire to No Avail



Building Blackened In Matter of Hours

The flames dominated the Eugene skyline much as the structure had dominated the northwestern entrance to the city. In terms of dollar loss, it was the biggest fire in Eugene history. The estimates run from three-quarters of a million dollars upward. The main portion of the Big Y shopping complex is no more. The frame and concrete main structure, shown in the picture at lower right as it once looked, was a gigantic ball of flame before the first of nine pieces of Eugene Fire Department equipment rolled in. The firemen—75 of them—poured thousands of gallons of water into the inferno from all angles. The battle exhausted many of them, like Dick Jones in the photo at right. But the water fell like so many pistol bullets off an armor plate. Within a matter of hours the building was a blackened hulk. Gone was the grocery and department store, with its Thursday specials; gone was the restaurant with its "All you can eat for \$1.49"; gone was the barber shop with its Indian paintings; gone was the liquor store with its Friday evening lines of purchasers.

(Register-Guard Photos by Mirko Pflner and Paul Peterson)

