

# Fire damages Silver City Cafe; neighboring buildings untouched

Two major fires hit Vernonia less than three weeks apart, destroying a barn on Stoney Point Road and causing major damage to a Bridge Street restaurant.

A hay-filled barn owned by Terry Schaumburg went up in flames in mid-day, July 18, along with equipment that included a skidder, tractor and dump truck, and caused about \$250,000 worth of damage. Electrical generating equipment was the apparent cause of the fire, according to Vernonia

Rural Fire District Chief Paul Epler.

The second fire, at about 10:30 p.m. on August 5, provided an unwelcome event for Jamboree. Heat, dense smoke and flames caused major damage to the interior and equipment of the Silver City Cafe, a 2100 sq. ft. building on Bridge Street that was built in the 1920s.

"Quick response by Vernonia Fire District personnel contained the fire and prevented damage to adjacent buildings,"

Vernonia Police Chief Jim Walters noted.

The origin of the fire has not been determined, but it did not start in the kitchen, and remains under investigation. Epler estimated damages to the building and contents at

about \$280,000.

Several people were reported to have been near the building shortly before emergency personnel arrived, but the police department has been unable to determine who they

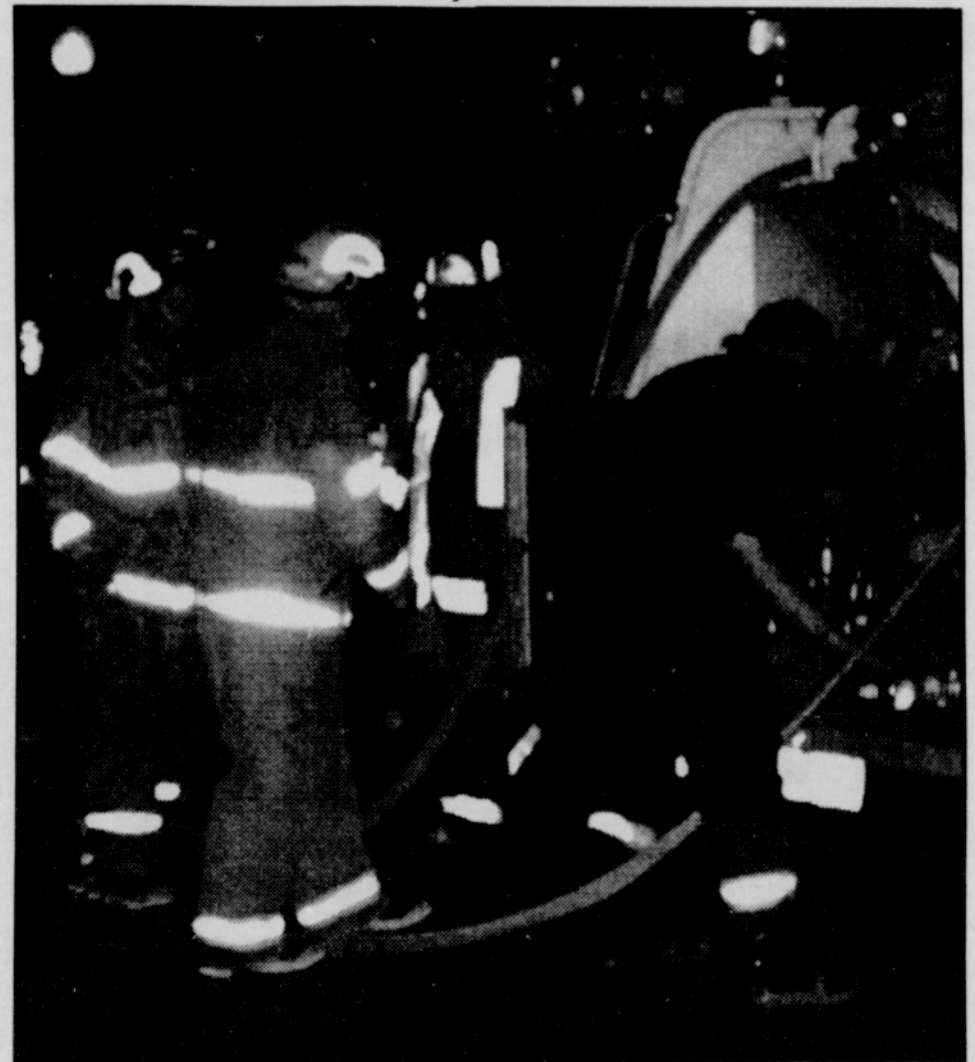
are.

"We really need any information they may have," Walters said. He asked that anyone who was near the building shortly before firefighters arrived call him at 429-7335.

## Cause of woman's death still unknown

An autopsy has not been able to determine what caused the death of Dana A. Seliger, 26, who was found in her MacDonald Road home on August 10. The young mother apparently had been vacuuming at the time of her death, but little else is known.

Clifford Nelson, M.D., of the Oregon Medical Examiner's office, is in charge of the investigation into the cause of the tragedy.



Reflective strips on the protective clothing worn by firefighters cast a luminous glow as they made preparations to extinguish a smoky fire at the Silver City Cafe.

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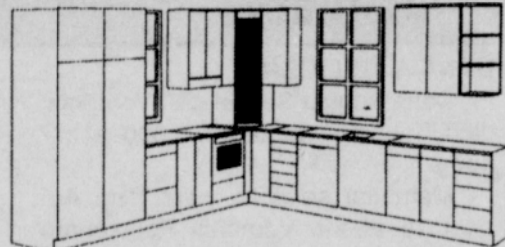
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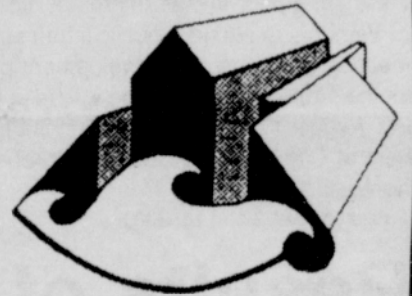
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