

Fire razes broiler house — Hawthorne rebuilds

BAINBRIDGE — Lester Hawthorne did not brood long over the tragic fire that claimed a less than one year old chicken house and 52,000 four week old broilers, early this week.

Two days after the fire, a construction crew was already at work putting up a new house.

What started the fire still remains a mystery, although Hawthorne has several theories on what might have caused it.

"It might have been a short circuit in a fan motor, or possibly one of the propane heaters may have fallen into the sawdust and started to smolder," he said.

One cause that Hawthorne is sure didn't start the blaze is a malfunction in the

electrical room at the west end of the house. "The fire definitely started at the other end", he stated.

What remained of the \$160,000 chicken house on Tuesday after the fire did not give many clues to the cause.

"There just wasn't much left after it was all over," Hawthorne noted. "The only thing that didn't burn up was the augers and some fans. The rest of the house disintegrated — everything burned up to ashes, even the heavy timbers."

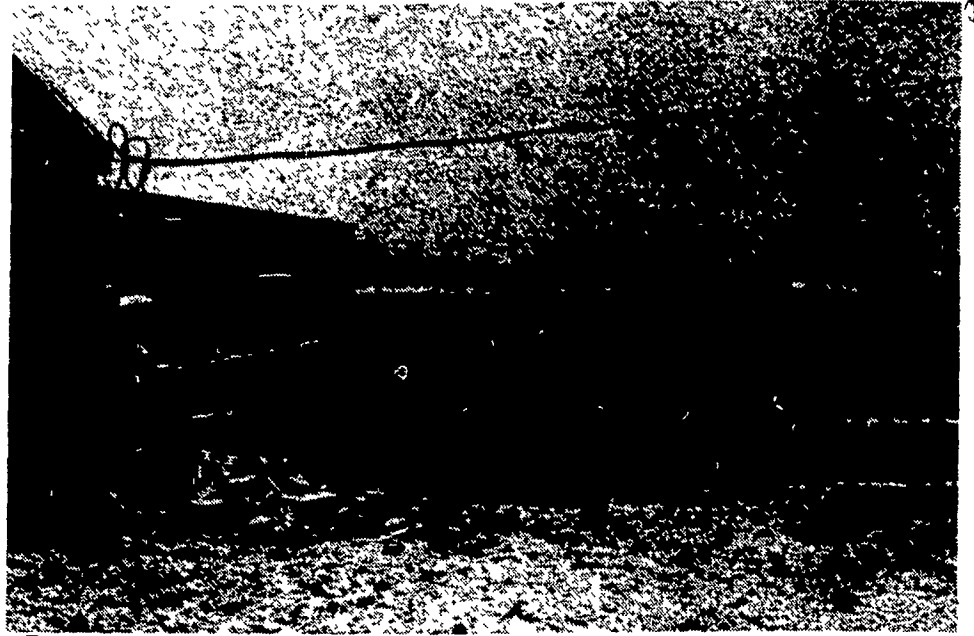
The fire was reported around 6:45 Monday morning. Hawthorne recalled about three people noticed it at once. A neighbor called the fire department, while

two others stopped at both Hawthorne's home and his son's house next to the chicken houses.

"I never thought one of these buildings would burn — now I know different," Hawthorne mused. "You don't hear of many chicken houses burning."

Unfortunately, Hawthorne lost a fairly new house that he estimates will cost him around \$175,000 to replace. And Wogemuth Bros., the Mount Joy feed firm that owned the 52,000 broilers, estimates their loss at 50 cents a bird.

The chicken house, located on Hawthorne's farm on Bossler road in West Donegal Township, burned in about one hour. Fire



Reconstruction got underway on Wednesday at the Hawthorne farm. Early Monday morning, fire destroyed a \$160,000 house and 52,000 broilers.

Hinish to take new post as assistant director

UNIVERSITY PARK — W. Wayne Hinish, professor of agronomy extension at Penn State, has been named assistant dean and assistant director for administrative management and training in the College of Agriculture's Extension Service.

Hinish will assume his new duties March 1, according to James M. Beattie, dean of the College of Agriculture. Hinish succeeds Dr. Craig S. Oliver who was named director of the University of Arizona's Cooperative Extension Service.

Currently coordinator of agronomy extension programs, Hinish will be responsible for administration in the areas of personnel, management information systems, affirmative action and other equal employment opportunity procedures, staff development and training, and short course and correspondence course programs of the College.

As coordinator of agronomy extension programs, Hinish has brought together ag-industry representatives, farmers, government agency and extension personnel to plan and develop educational programs and publications benefiting the entire agricultural economy.

Hinish has developed numerous Ag Service Schools held annually in eight locations within Pennsylvania. He also helped



W. Wayne Hinish

organize and is responsible for the agronomic activities of Pennsylvania's Unit Demonstration Farm Program, a cooperative project with the Tennessee Valley Authority.

In charge of the Penn State soil testing program since 1956, he combined soil physical characteristics and soil survey information in determining lime and fertilizer recommendations.

He computerized the program and designed an innovative, colored bar-graph soil test report which has been adopted by many states.

Under his leadership, this testing program has grown from about 20,000 samples per year to 70,000. Some 20 percent of the state's far-

mers use this program to determine lime and fertilizer needs.

He has been consultant to various state and county government agencies serving agriculture. His expertise was used by the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture to help formulate new lime and fertilizer laws to benefit both producer and consumer.

In 1979, Hinish administered plant science programs in four computer workshops held throughout the United States.

He has authored or co-authored more than 60 technical reports, journal articles, bulletins, and popular articles.

Hinish was honored as Man of the Year by the Pennsylvania Plant Food and Protectant Society in 1977.

He also received the Extension Merit Award from Gamma Sigma Delta Society, and Extension-Industry Award from the northeastern branch of the American Society of Agronomy in 1978, and Cooperative Extension Service Award in 1979.

A native of Curryville, Blair County, he received three degrees from Penn State.

He is married to the former Janet Emigh, of Roaring Springs. They are the parents of two children.

companies from Bainbridge, Elizabethtown, Maytown, and Rheems responded to the alarm.

Clean-up operations started on Tuesday, and Hawthorne said they handled the building remains with a manure spreader and front-end loader. By Wednesday, the only tell-tale evidence of the tragedy was the sickening odor that every fire leaves as its mark.

Hawthorne explained that the new building has to be finished by early March when his next batch of broilers will arrive. The new building will stand next to the two remaining broiler houses that were untouched by Monday's blaze.

Hawthorne, who also has a dairy business along with the broilers, said he counts himself lucky. "This is the first terrible thing that has

happened to me in the fifteen years that I've been farming here. I'm just happy that the fire wasn't in one of the family's homes." SM

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