

Arson destroys Elstonville barn

ELSTONVILLE — Arson was listed as the cause of a \$100,000 fire that destroyed a large barn along Rt. 72, about a mile north of Elstonville, Lancaster County, Wednesday night.

There is no other explanation for the cause of the fire since there was no electrical service to the structure, according to County Fire Marshall Dennis Gerhart, of the Lancaster State Police.

The barn was owned by Menno Ober, R4 Manheim, but was being used by Marlin Reiss, of Elstonville, who rents the Ober land for farming.

In addition to the barn, a tobacco shed was destroyed and a corn shed extensively damaged. Contents of the barn that were lost included a chuck wagon, two hay wagons and about 500 bales of hay.

Eighteen heifers in the barn at the time of the blaze escaped. The barn opened into an adjoining meadow and the animals ran from the flames.

The fire was discovered about midnight by a neighbor, Mrs. Earl Sinner, who was returning home. When firemen arrived, the barn was

completely engulfed in flames.

Besides fighting the flames, firemen wet down the home of Mrs. Audry Byers, just north of the barn.

The house was not damaged.

It was the second barn fire in Lancaster County in as many nights. Tuesday night a barn along Rt. 322 at Brickerville was gutted.

Another fire Wednesday night destroyed a large hay barn at the Delaware Valley College of Agriculture, Doylestown.

The barn had only recently been filled with feed, according to a college spokesman.

The fire broke out at 8:15 p.m. Investigation is continuing into the cause. An inventory of losses also is continuing.

Three nearby cattle barns were not damaged. Livestock were removed from the barns as a precautionary measure during the blaze.

Versatile

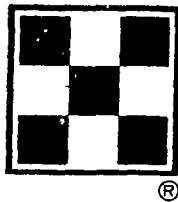
The versatile human hand, capable of threading a needle and making a hammer-like fist, has a skeleton framework of 30 small bones



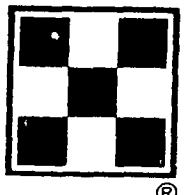
Concrete silo, stone walls and smoldering skeleton are all that remain of a large barn

destroyed by arson near Elstonville, Lancaster County, Wednesday night.

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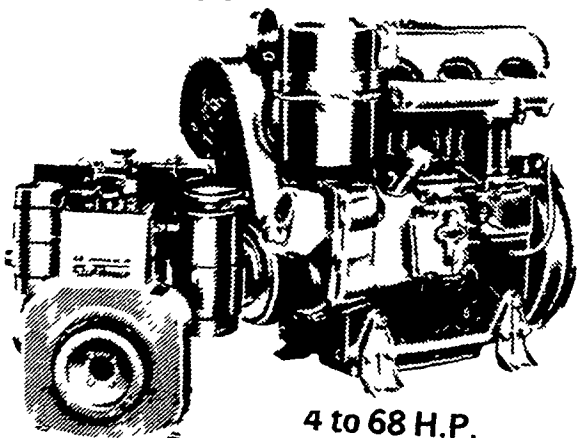
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