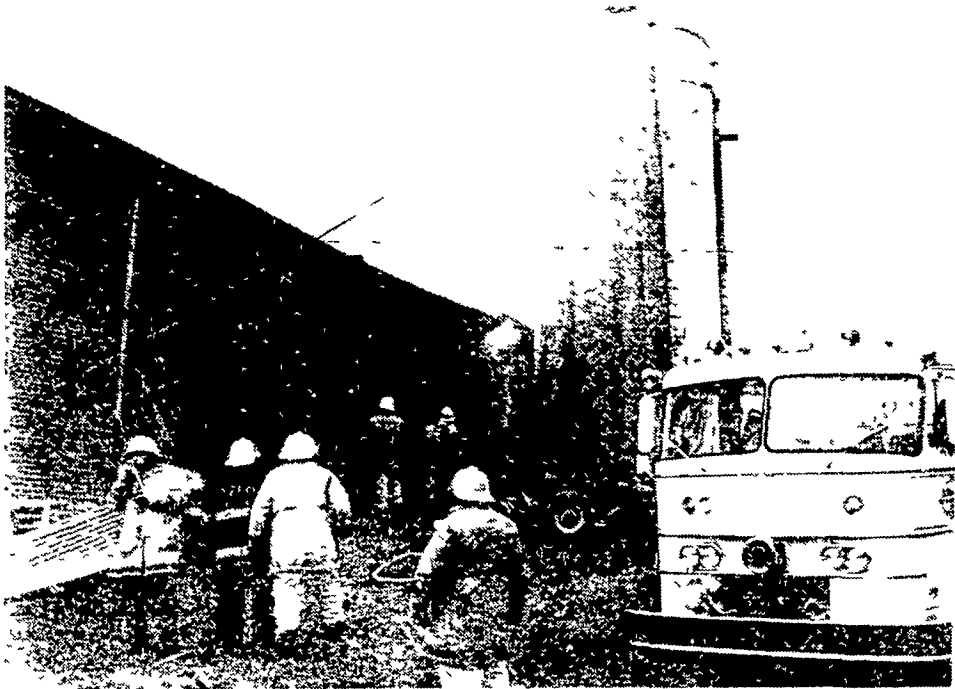
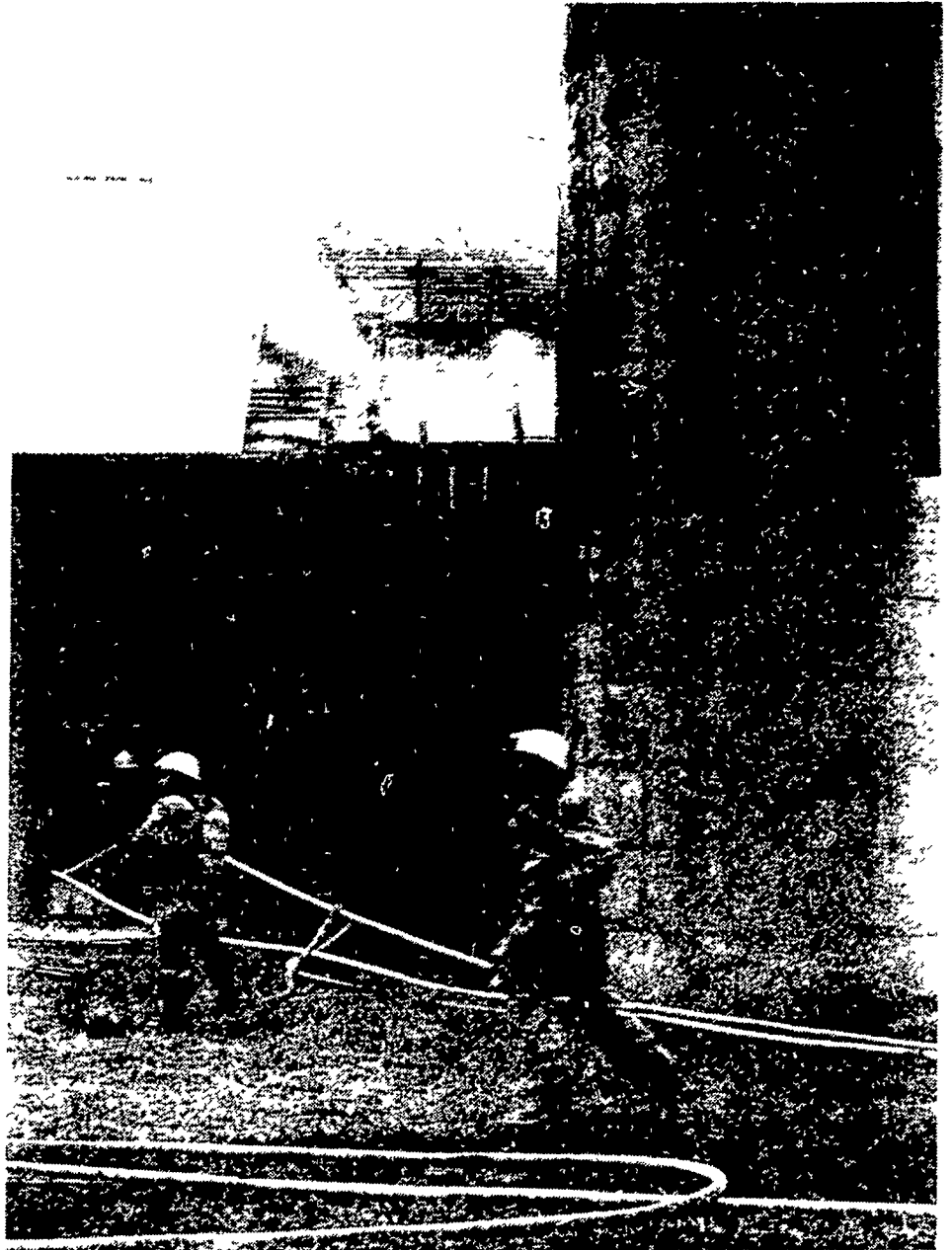


## Fire strikes Lititz barn



Damages were estimated at \$10,000 in a fire that burned through the roof of a barn along the Newport Road, north of Lititz, in Lancaster County Wednesday morning. High winds tore part of the tin roof from the barn. A piece of tin apparently was blown onto an outdoor electrical wire, causing a short inside the nearby empty barn. Damages were confined to the roof and rafter area. The barn contained only a few pieces of equipment and a small amount of hay, according to tenant Harland Weaver, R1 Manheim. The barn is owned by Wrigley Chewing Gum Co., of Chicago. The company bought a 130-acre tract about ten years ago as the location of a possible plant site. Plans for the plant never materialized.



## Representative explains ag tax break law

HARRISBURG — Family farming has gotten a boost from legislation recently passed by the General Assembly.

Rep. Noah Wenger, vice-chairman of the Agriculture Committee, said House Bill 1176 helps farmers deal with excessive inheritance taxes by providing for preferential valuation of agricultural land.

"The Senate amended the bill to extend this special valuation to forest land," Wenger said.

"Under this measure agricultural and forest land would be taxed for inheritance purposes on its use value rather than its market value provided the land continues to be used for

agriculture or forest land for a seven-year period.

"To qualify, agricultural land must have been devoted to agricultural use at least three years before the owner's death.

In addition, it must be at least ten contiguous acres in size or have an anticipated yearly gross income from agricultural use of at least \$2,000. Forest land must be at least ten contiguous acres in size," he said.

If the land is not used for

agricultural or forest purposes during the seven-year period following the owner's death, the land will be revalued under the market value. A tax would be computed and the new owner must pay the difference between the rates for the period from the date of death, plus a six percent interest per year.

Wenger, co-sponsor of the bill, said that to retain the preferential valuation the

land must be used for agriculture, forest or limited residential purposes.

"Agriculture is our nation's leading employer and one of our most valuable

resources," Wenger said. "We must take the problem of loss of farmland seriously."

Legislation such as this will promote the preservation of farmland by

making it easier to pass family farms from one generation to the next.

The bill is expected to be signed into law by Gov. Thornburgh in December.

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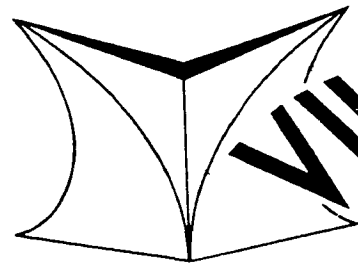
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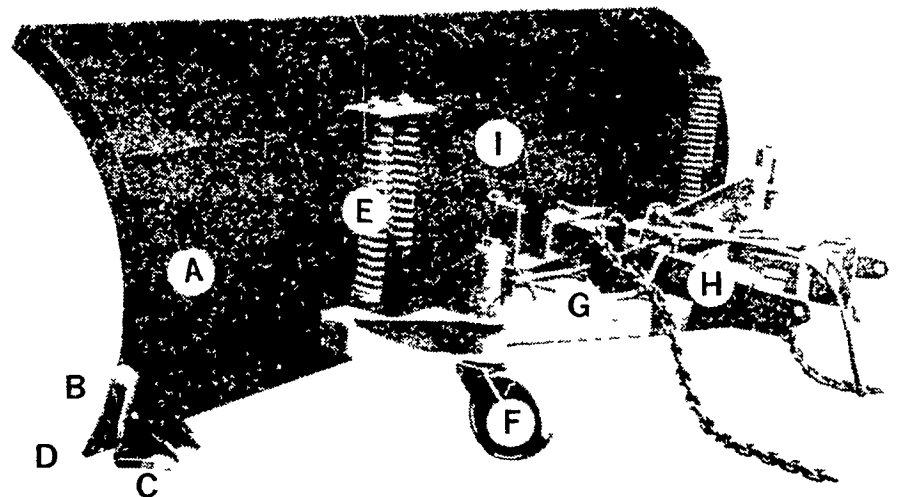
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